Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-179
Friday
17 September 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-179 17 September 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

• Norwegian Diplomat Reviews Mediation Efforts *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Sep]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat To Address Arab League Meeting Opening 19 Sep *[MENA]* 3
No Lifting of Boycott Planned *[AFP]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Abbas: PLO Central Council To Ratify Pact at End of Month *[MENA]* 3
'Arafat Delays Greece Visit *[AFP]* 4
Fatah Announces Truce With Hamas To Reject Violence *[AFP]* 4
Hamas Official Denies Truce Signed *[AFP]* 4
Urges Intensified Military Action *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
Hamas Leader Reportedly Supported 'Arafat's Steps *[MENA]* 5
Hamas Pledges To Boycott Meetings Attended by 'Arafat *[AFP]* 5
Hamas Spokesman on Projected Sanaa Summit *[London AL-HAYAH 15 Sep]* 6
Urges Referendum To Show Opposition *[JANA]* 6
PFLP's Habash Warns of Infighting, Urges 'Struggle' *[SANA]* 7
Split in PFLP Denied *[SANA]* 7
More on PFLP, DFLP Opposition to Agreement *[London AL-WASAT 13-19 Sep]* 7
Qaddumi, Other Factions Reportedly Support Agreement
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Sep] 8
'Arafat Thanks al-Majali for Congratulations *[Amman Radio]* 9
Official Assesses Requirements for Accord's Success *[AL-RA'Y 16 Sep]* 10
Commentary Views Criticism of Accord With Israel *[Algiers VOP]* 11
Paper Sees Agreement as Small Step Toward Solution *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 14 Sep]* 11
Dissident Fatah Commander Dies of Heart Attack in Beirut *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 12

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Prime Minister Asserts Algeria Not in Civil War *[Algiers TV]* 13
African Development Bank Grants Loan for Water Projects *[Algiers TV]* 13

Egypt

Ingratitude Toward Egypt's Peace Role Perceived *[AL-AHRAM 15 Sep]* 13
Palestinian Envoy on 'Gratitude' for Mubarak Role *[MENA]* 14
Cairo To Focus on Israeli 'Commitment' To Leave Golan *[MENA]* 15
Report of Terror Suspect on Red Sea Coast Denied *[MENA]* 15
Troops Complete Mine-Clearing Operation in Kuwait *[MENA]* 15
Petition To Replace Judge in 'Abd-al-Rahman Case Rejected *[MENA]* 15
Coptic Christians Clash With Muslim Extremists *[AFP]* 16
Prisons Director Blames Overcrowding for Clashes *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 9-15 Sep]* 16
125 'Extremists' Transferred *[MENA]* 17
Muslim Brotherhood Leader on Democracy, Terrorism *[AL-SAFIR 7 Sep]* 17

Morocco

Israel's Rabin on Syrian Talks, Peace Implications *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Four Parties Present Election Platforms *[Rabat TV]* 20
More Parties Present Platforms *[Rabat TV]* 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Statement Issued on New Administrative Divisions *[Riyadh TV]* 22
Royal Decrees on New Regional Structure *[SPA]* 22
More on Decrees on Regional Structure *[SPA]* 24
Royal Directive to Interior Minister *[Riyadh TV]* 26

United Arab Emirates

President Holds Talks With Mauritania's Taya *[Nouakchott Radio]* 26

Yemen

• Al-Bid on YSP, Unity, Democracy, Development *[London AL-HAYAH 28 Aug]* 26

IRAQ

Talks With Sudanese Delegation Held 16 Sep 29
Bilateral Ties Discussed *[INA]* 29
Husayn Kamil Hasan Receives Delegation *[INA]* 29
Oil Minister Meets With Delegation *[INA]* 29
Foreign Minister Departs for Cairo Conference *[INA]* 29
Defense Minister al-Majid Attends Night Exercise *[Baghdad Radio]* 29

ISRAEL

IDF Shoots, Kills Car Passenger in Nabulus *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

JORDAN

King Comments on Impact of PLO-Israel Agreement *[Amman TV]* 31
King on PLO-Israel Accord, Future Prospects *[Amman TV]* 33
UK's Hurd Greets al-Majali on Agenda Accord *[Amman Radio]* 35
Al-Majali Hails 'Arafat on Joint Declaration *[Amman Radio]* 35
Government Said To Ban Protests Against Agenda *[Tehran Radio]* 36
Palestinian Residents Ordered To Register *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 16 Sep]* 36
8 Fundamentalists Plead Innocent in Bid To Kill King *[AFP]* 36
Defense in Mu'tah Trial Queries Court's Jurisdiction *[JORDAN TIMES 16-17 Sep]* 36

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Sees 'Dangerous Juncture' in Next 3 Months *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Hizballah Source: 'Only Natural' for Government To Go *[VOL]* 38
Al-Hariri, Syria's al-Zu'bi Lead Committee Meeting 38
Speeches, Minutes Reported *[SANA]* 38
Al-Zu'bi, Delegation Depart *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Omani Foreign Affairs Ministry Delegation Visits 41
Prime Minister, Speaker Receive Group *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Decision Made To Reopen Embassies *[VOL]* 41
Buwayz, Omani Minister Comment *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Minister Meets al-Hirawi, Departs *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Swedish Move To Pull Out UNIFIL Contingent Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Cuban Official Expresses Solidarity, Views Ties *[VOM]* 42

Chilean Foreign Minister Meets Buwayz, Others *[Beirut Radio]* 42

SYRIA

Khaddam Holds Meeting With DFLP'S Hawatimah *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 43
Prime Minister Returns From Lebanon Visit *[SANA]* 43
Al-Shar' Confers With Syrian-Lebanese Council Head *[Damascus Radio]* 43
'Full Withdrawal' From Golan for Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 43
German Official Received by al-Asad, Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 43

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Presidential Decree Approves Constitutional Commission *[Kabul Radio]* 45

India

Paper Questions Use of U.S. Forces Under UN Aegis *[INDIAN EXPRESS 7 Sep]* 45
Country To Offer Antiterrorism Resolution in UN *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Article Says U.S. Unilaterally Interprets MTCR *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 24 Aug]* 45
Tourism Minister Visits Turkmenistan, Meets Officials *[ISI]* 47
Air Accord Signed With Three Republics *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Approval for 24 More RR Battalions Expected Soon *[INDIAN EXPRESS 6 Sep]* 47
Merchant Held in Connection With Madras Bombing *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Election Commission Petitions Supreme Court *[Delhi Radio]* 48

Iran

Palestinian Issue Sparks Reactions Among Top Officials 48
Khamene'i Addresses IRGC *[Tehran TV]* 48
Nateq-Nuri Condemns Accord *[Tehran TV]* 50
Khomeyni Addresses IRGC Meeting on Accord *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Emami-Kashani Sermon Attacks Agreement *[Tehran Radio]* 51
French Foreign Ministry Official Holds Talks on Ties *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Relations With Russia, Regional Developments Viewed *[Tehran International]* 52

Nepal

King Birendra Prorogues Fifth Parliamentary Session *[AFP]* 53

Pakistan

Foreign Office Spokesman Briefs Reporters *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
General Hoar's Visit Seen as 'Exercise in Futility' *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 14 Sep]* 54
Politician Says U.S. Not Interested in Kashmir Solution *[PAKISTAN 14 Sep]* 54
Noorani Alleges CIA Agents Present in Foreign Ministry *[JANG 14 Sep]* 55
Leader Promises To Make Country 'Nuclear' If Elected *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 16 Sep]* 55
Bhutto Family Dissension Divides PPP on Election Eve *[AFP]* 55

* Norwegian Diplomat Reviews Mediation Efforts

93AE0575A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Sep 93 p 7

[Interview With Jan Egeland, Norwegian state secretary for foreign affairs, by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din on 7 September; place not given]

[Text] London—Norwegian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Jan Egeland, whose country saw the birth of the draft Palestinian-Israeli accord, which calls for returning Gaza Strip and Jericho to the Palestinians, has reviewed the background to this step, as well as the development of the Norwegian mediation efforts that culminated in the results that have surfaced in the past few weeks.

In response to a question on the mediation story and the reasons why Norway undertook this effort, the Norwegian secretary started his interview with AL-HAYAH yesterday, saying: "Beginnings of the mediation story are as old as Israel itself. Rather, the relationship is even older. It dates back to World War II when Hitler's occupation army annihilated Norwegian Jews. This act stirred Norwegian sympathy for Jews and this sympathy was translated into support for Jews when Israel was created.

"A firm and old friendship ties us to the Israeli Labor Party. Besides, we are tied to the PLO by friendly relations that have been embodied on our part in several positive stances throughout the phase or procession of Palestinian torture since Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967. We condemned this occupation as of the moment it took place and we considered it an illegitimate act.

"Based on this conviction, Norway drafted a number of programs aimed at providing humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.

"In 1981, the first meeting was held between then Norwegian Foreign Minister Knute Frydenlund and his deputy, who now holds the position of UN envoy to the Bosnia peace negotiations, on the one hand, and PLO representatives, on the other. This was followed by another meeting between PLO representatives and Norwegian Prime Minister Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland.

"The foundations of cooperation and consultation were established at the time. It was then agreed to establish permanent relations, which have been founded on our belief that the PLO is the more representative body of the Palestinian people.

"Since the 1980s, we have been telling our Israeli friends that they have to deal with the Palestinians, and with the PLO specifically, on a realistic basis that acknowledges the PLO's legitimate representation of the Palestinians and not on the basis that the PLO is an organization of criminals and terrorists.

"This is for history and the past. As for the secret talks that led to the Gaza and Jericho accord, they started last year at a meeting between then Norwegian Foreign Minister Stoltenberg and myself on one side and a team of Norwegian researchers who conducted a field study on living conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories, financed by the Foreign Ministry and the FAFO [Trade Union Center for Research, Investigation, and Documentation] Organization.

"This meeting generated the idea of mediation to establish dialogue between Israel and the PLO. We went ahead and submitted the idea to the Israelis at a meeting held with some officials last May. We told those officials explicitly that we could establish a link between them and any PLO official, if they so wished.

"Numerous meetings were held in Norway afterward to discuss the details. In 1991 and 1992, a number of PLO representatives and Palestinian leaders, including Faysal al-Husayni, Nabil Sha'th, Bassam Abu-Sharif, Abu-'Ala', and others, came to visit us."

['Alam-al-Din] And what about Abu-'Ammar?

[Egeland] Abu-'Ammar never came. We welcome him any time he wishes to come to Norway.

['Alam-al-Din] How did things start?

[Egeland] The real start was crystallized on 10 September 1992 during a meeting with Yosi Beilin, Israel's deputy foreign minister. I proposed to him that Norway act as behind-the-scenes liaison for peace negotiations and for establishing a bridge of dialogue between Israel and the PLO.

Beilin received the idea with acceptance. However, he believed that contacts should start between Israeli and Palestinian academicians first.

At that time, we planned to have Beilin and Faysal al-Husayni hold a confidential meeting in Norway.

Last December, we organized a meeting at a London hotel and it was attended by Professor Yagiveli [name as published] from Haifa University on behalf of the Israeli side and by Abu-'Ala' as PLO representative. Norway was represented at the meeting by Rejo Godrasna [name as published] from the Foreign Ministry.

In London, the two men agreed to hold another meeting in Oslo to discuss the possibility of drafting a complete program for cooperation in bolstering the peace negotiations.

The first confidential meeting between the PLO and an Israeli Government official was held last April, and I am not at liberty to disclose the Israeli official's name.

['Alam-al-Din] Did you tell the Americans about what was going on? What was their reaction?

[Egeland] We kept the Americans informed of the developments from the outset. I went to Washington last November and talked to Dan Kurtzer, a prominent U.S. State Department official, and explained our objective to him. I told him that we planned to act as a middleman to establish direct dialogue between Israel and the PLO.

Afterward, we constantly kept the U.S. Administration informed of all the meetings taking place.

['Alam-al-Din] Some reports say that the Americans didn't welcome this Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

[Egeland] These are inaccurate statements. The fact is that the Americans have been positive.

['Alam-al-Din] Have you informed Russia, the second sponsor of the peace process, of these details?

[Egeland] No, we haven't contacted the Russians. They have had no direct role in this process.

['Alam-al-Din] How do you view the statements of those who cast doubts on the accord and who assert that it will not be the beginning for comprehensive peace but will be the end of Palestinian rights?

[Egeland] I am certain that the accord on Gaza and Jericho is the start of the road to the real and desired peace. It is axiomatic, of course, to say that the path is long and that it may abound with stumbling blocks. However, it will reach its desired peaceful end. It is certain that Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres believe this strongly and support this march firmly in its capacity as a serious Israeli step to establish the foundations of peace between Israel and its neighbors.

The same belief in peace is demonstrated on the Palestinian side. Yasir 'Arafat personally led the negotiations with the Israelis in Oslo, through Abu-al-'Ala'.

The two sides have developed preliminary agreements that go beyond the boundaries of the Gaza Strip and Jericho. This will be demonstrated clearly in the next 3-5 years when the discussion extends to the West Bank and other pending issues, such as Jerusalem and the settlements.

['Alam-al-Din] Will you offer your services to the two sides if, for example, the Jerusalem issue becomes complicated?

[Egeland] We will always be ready to offer our advice and support to both sides on the basis that we will continue to be as we have been—an indirect, honest, sincere, and neutral broker who believes in peace.

['Alam-al-Din] Do you see on the horizon the signs of an independent Palestinian state and has this issue been raised during the Oslo negotiations?

[Egeland] This issue will be undoubtedly discussed in the future. However, it is difficult to determine as of now the course that this issue and the confederation plan will follow.

['Alam-al-Din] And what do you expect, an independent Palestinian state or a confederal state?

[Egeland] I hope to see mutual recognition first and then the conclusion of a peace accord. We can all cooperate then to achieve the other goals. We in the Scandinavian countries and in Finland have started providing financial and other aid to the Palestinians through the United Nations. We must all contribute to developing the region and must underline the benefits its peoples will reap through cooperation and coexistence.

['Alam-al-Din] What kind of aid have you offered?

[Egeland] The aid we offer takes numerous and varied forms and includes aid to universities, water utilization, and other aspects of development.

['Alam-al-Din] Will comprehensive peace prevail in the Middle East in the next 10 years?

[Egeland] We expect it earlier, even though we expect rebellions and riots to erupt here and there in the next few months.

['Alam-al-Din] Riots similar to those that followed the Camp David accords?

[Egeland] I don't know, and I hope that nothing of the sort will happen.

['Alam-al-Din] What fate will the Gaza and Jericho plan meet if peace negotiations on the Golan Heights and on South Lebanon falter?

[Egeland] I believe that parallel progress will be achieved on all fronts. The fact remains that any progress on the fundamental front, i.e., the Palestinian-Israeli front, will lead to strengthening progress toward a solution on the other fronts, especially the Syrian and Lebanese fronts.

['Alam-al-Din] Do you have information on the obstacles standing in Syria's and Lebanon's way?

[Egeland] I don't know much about this aspect, because we have made no contacts in this regard.

['Alam-al-Din] Will the diaspora Palestinians be repatriated after this accord?

[Egeland] This depends on the outcome of the comprehensive talks that will be held in the future. What is important is that the peace train, according to 'Arafat and Peres, has set forth and that it is no longer possible to stop it. The accord on Gaza and Jericho is the beginning, and it is a very good beginning for both sides who have been in dire need of such a beginning to develop coexistence and to end the cycle of violence, oppression, and occupation.

['Alam-al-Din] Have you been invited by the Americans to participate in the signing ceremony, which will be held on the 13th of this month?

[Egeland] The Americans want our presence in the signing ceremony. But we must be deliberate now to make certain that there will actually be a signing ceremony.

['Alam-al-Din] Do you have a message you wish to address to the Arabs?

[Egeland] We in Norway are aware that the Arabs are people with a deep- rooted heritage and a radiant civilization and that they can develop and advance, even under the most difficult conditions. I believe that we

stand today on the start of the path to peace in the Middle East after many decades of war, devastation, and blood. The peace march must be completed.

With our knowledge of the Arabs, we are fully optimistic about the future.

['Alam-al-Din] Is your party confident of winning the parliamentary election which will take place next Monday?

[Egeland] I am confident that we will win and return to power, even though with a government which, unlike the present government, will not have a majority in the Chamber of Deputies.

['Alam-al-Din] Does your mediation between the Palestinians and Israelis bolster your chances of winning the election?

[Egeland] Our domestic policy is different. Election considerations are domestic considerations. However, this shouldn't stop us from saying that the Norwegian citizen is proud of what we have accomplished in the Middle East.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat To Address Arab League Meeting Opening 19 Sep

NC1509095893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will attend the 100th session of the Arab League Council, which opens on 19 September at the ministerial level.

In a statement today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Palestinian leader will deliver an important speech explaining the declaration of principles signed between the PLO and Israel on the Gaza-Jericho First option. He said 'Arafat asked that the session be open to the Arab and foreign news media so that his address may reach the Arab public and people everywhere. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab boycott of Israel is a permanent topic on the Arab League Council agenda, adding that the boycott will not be lifted until the war between the Arabs and Israel ends.

No Lifting of Boycott Planned

NC1709092293 Paris AFP in English 0810 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, Sept 17 (AFP)—A lifting of the Arab economic boycott of Israel has not been placed on the agenda of a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers to be held here on Sunday [19 September], Arab League sources said Friday.

"No Arab country has asked that a lifting of the boycott be considered," one source said. "And we don't expect any of our 21 members to do so by Sunday."

"The boycott does not figure among the 37 items on the agenda for the session."

The United States has called on Arab states to end the economic boycott following the signing in Washington on Monday of an agreement between Israel and the PLO on limited Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

'Adnan 'Imran, the deputy secretary-general of the Arab League, said last week that a lifting of the boycott "is not forseeable until a complete Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem."

The United States also recently called on Gulf states to abandon the boycott and normalize relations with Israel.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abbas: PLO Central Council To Ratify Pact at End of Month

NC1709102093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0948 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Tunis, 17 Sep (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, has stated that the method of negotiation in Washington talks between the PLO and Israel has ended with the signing of the Declaration of Principles by both parties on Monday [13 September]. In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, he said that the previous stage was meant to reach an agreement on principles for solving the Palestinian issue. The future stage, he said, will focus on implementing these principles.

'Abbas said that the PLO Central Council will meet at the end of September to debate and ratify the agreement on mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel and the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government [al-hukm al-dhati] in the occupied territories. One of the clauses is "the Gaza-Jericho plan."

'Abbas said that the negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli parties will be resumed within two to four weeks. He noted that Palestinian and Israeli committees will be formed and their work will focus on the method and manner of implementing the Declaration of Principles. He pointed out that these committees will meet in Washington and that one committee may meet in Cairo after consultation with Egypt. He ruled out meetings of these committees in the occupied territories because they include members from outside the occupied territories who may encounter difficulties in entering and departing the area.

'Abbas said that 'Arafat has received several invitations to visit France, Greece, and Turkey but he has not yet set the dates for these visits. He pointed out that 'Arafat will leave for Cairo on Sunday to make a speech at the Arab

foreign ministers council. He will elaborate on the Declaration of Principles agreement and the mutual recognition agreement between the PLO and Israel.

'Arafat Delays Greece Visit

NC1709091893 Paris AFP in English 0837 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Athens, Sept 17 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has asked to delay by a week a visit to Greece scheduled to begin Monday [19 September], a Palestinian diplomat said Friday.

A spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's office here said 'Arafat had asked for the delay of his first visit to a European Community country since the signing of an agreement with Israel because of other pressing business.

The PLO chairman has not made an official visit to an E.C. country for two years and last visited Greece in January 1989.

Fatah Announces Truce With Hamas To Reject Violence

NC1709061493 Paris AFP in English 2355 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Tunis, Sept 17 (AFP)—The two main Palestinian groups active in the Israeli-occupied territories, Fatah and the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement, have reached a truce to avert bloodshed over an autonomy accord with Israel, Fatah announced late Thursday [16 September].

Agreement between Fatah and its bitter rival Hamas, which has rejected the self-rule accord, was reached Wednesday at a meeting between representatives of both camps on the Gaza Strip.

Fatah, the principal component of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Hamas adopted a six-point "declaration of honour" forbidding use of physical or verbal violence and guaranteeing mutual freedom of opinion and expression.

The document, which allows both movements to retain their widely divergent political positions, was released hours after Hamas's Amman representative pledged in Damascus to boycott all meetings attended by PLO and Fatah chief Yasir 'Arafat.

Hamas denounced a PLO-Israel accord signed in Washington on Monday offering Palestinians limited self-rule on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho as a sellout of Palestinian lands and rights.

The group has also rejected the participation of the PLO leader at any Palestinian gathering, the representative added.

In the preamble to their understanding, both parties describe the current situation as a "dangerous historical turning point" and commit themselves to upholding the interests of Palestinians and to thwarting plotters and groups "wagering on a fratricidal war."

Fatah and Hamas also announced the creation of regional "dialogue and coordination" committees to monitor the truce and preempt possible conflicts.

The movements plan to invite leading Palestinians to impress upon militants the "dangers of clashes in the current situation," the accord added.

But both insisted on "freedom of opinion for groups and individuals" and their right to hold peaceful demonstrations while inviting all other Palestinian movements to respect the conditions of the truce.

The PLO's two other principal movements, the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP and DFLP), have both pledged to scupper the autonomy accord by non-violent means.

Representatives of the 10 Damascus-based Palestinian organizations opposed to peace with Israel, which include Hamas, the PFLP and DFLP, were to meet late Thursday in the Syrian capital to review a position to take towards the PLO, a Palestinian source said earlier.

Hamas Official Denies Truce Signed

NC1709130493 Paris AFP in English 1221 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Amman, Sept 17 (AFP)—Muhammad Nazzal, the representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas in Jordan, denied here Friday [17 September] that his hardline fundamentalist group had signed a truce with the main PLO faction Fatah.

Nazzal said on his return from a visit to Damascus that Hamas, which opposes the PLO-Israel autonomy pact inked in Washington on Monday, had not signed "any agreement whatsoever" with Fatah.

Fatah announced at PLO headquarters in Tunis on Thursday that leaders of Hamas and Fatah held in Gaza City's central prison had signed a six-point "code of honor" aimed at preventing inter- Palestinian clashes.

Fatah officials in Gaza City said the truce applied to the entire occupied territories and forbids physical or verbal violence between Palestinians and guarantees mutual freedom of opinion and expression.

Nazzal accused 'Arafat and PLO members of spreading false information.

Hamas has denounced the PLO-Israel accord offering Palestinians limited self-rule on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho as a sellout of Palestinian lands and rights.

Urges Intensified Military Action

JN1709130793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Fatah says it has reached a truce with the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to avert bloodshed over the autonomy accord with Israel. But, when Radio Monte Carlo's Salim Badawi asked Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas' representative in Jordan, to confirm the news, he denied it. He also addressed Hamas' future strategy:

[Begin recording] [Nazzal] The reported agreement between Fatah and Hamas is a fabrication by 'Arafat's Tunis leadership to confuse the Palestinian man in the street and provide a cover for the Gaza-Jericho accord.

[Badawi] How does Hamas plan to preempt the Israeli-Palestinian accord?

[Nazzal] We are pursuing a two-track strategy. First, we will seek to broaden the base of the political alliance in the Palestinian arena along the lines of a program calling for attachment to Palestine and national rights. Second, our strategy calls for intensifying military action and jihad in the occupied territory. We are convinced the accord carries the seeds of its own collapse. God willing, over time, and given escalated armed struggle, it will come undone. [end recording]

Hamas Leader Reportedly Supported 'Arafat's Steps

NC1709094993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Tunis, 17 Sep (MENA)—The Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH today reports that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat received a message before signing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Washington last Monday [13 September] from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. The message, which Shaykh Yasin sent from his prison in Israel, supports 'Arafat's steps to restore part of the occupied Palestinian territories and calls for an inter-Palestinian understanding to avoid infighting.

The paper adds that 'Arafat has already formed the delegation that will be involved in a dialogue with Hamas in Sanaa. It includes Nasr Yusuf, member of Fatah Central Committee who had earlier engaged in a dialogue with Hamas.

According to AL-SABAH, the delegation has instructions to work to bring about an all-embracing understanding among the Palestinian powers, guaranteeing an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories during the transitional period, and preparing for the reconstruction battle. The instructions also point out that the PLO will guarantee the opposition's right to engage in political activity and legitimate criticism in Gaza and Jericho and will respect all orientations.

The paper notes that Hani al-Hasan and 'Abbas Zaki, members of Fatah's Central Committee, have for several days been holding meetings with Palestinian opposition elements to reach an understanding among all the Palestinian powers that support and oppose the agreement.

Hani al-Hasan and 'Abbas Zaki had expressed some reservations over the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Hamas Pledges To Boycott Meetings Attended by 'Arafat

NC1609161093 Paris AFP in English 1548 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus, Sept 16 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas will boycott all meetings attended by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, the movement s Amman representative said here Thursday [16 September].

"We'll boycott all meetings in which Arafat will participate," Muhammad Nazzal told AFP, adding that Hamas had vetoed the participation of the PLO leader at any Palestinian gathering.

Hamas has branded the PLO-Israel agreement on autonomy for the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho a sellout of Palestinian lands and rights.

The PLO chairman said Thursday in Egypt that a reconciliation meeting in Yemen would probably take place next month between the various Palestinian groups, including those opposed to the peace deal with Israel.

Representatives of the 10 Damascus-based Palestinian organizations opposed to peace with Israel, notably the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP and DFLP), as well as Hamas, are to meet late Thursday in the Syrian capital.

They will review what position to take towards the Palestine Liberation Organization, a Palestinian source said.

Two currents have emerged, one calling for 'Arafat's ouster and the creation of a new organization, and another seeking to keep the PLO intact but creating a front grouping anti-'Arafat forces, he said.

The position to adopt with regard to the PLO must be decided at a general congress grouping forces opposed to the accord, Nazzal said.

Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al Halim Khaddam met Wednesday in Damascus with DFLP chief Nayif Hawatimah to discuss "the expected consequences following the signing of the accord," a statement from that group said.

It said Khaddam had reiterated "Syria's commitment to a comprehensive settlement based on an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights."

Khaddam met Tuesday with PFLP leader George Habash.

The Syrian Government has not yet reacted to the autonomy agreement but the official media have criticized it, saying it "could not lead to a just and comprehensive peace" in the Middle East.

Hamas Spokesman on Projected Sanaa Summit

PM1609154393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Sep 93 p 6

[Jamal Khashuqji report: "Ghawshah Tells AL-HAYAH: Yemeni President Invited Us to Meeting With Fatah"]

[Text] Amman—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah has stated that Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has invited Hamas to a meeting with Fatah in Sanaa within the next few days, to be preceded by an enlarged meeting of the various Palestinian organizations in the Yemeni capital also to discuss the new Palestinian developments after the signing of the PLO-Israel limited autonomy agreement.

Ghawshah, who returned from Sanaa yesterday (Monday), said in an interview with AL-HAYAH that "the main aim of the national dialogue idea is to prevent Palestinian infighting and preserve national unity." He added: "We have had a great response from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who is extremely concerned about national unity. That is why the national dialogue idea was put forward. We in Hamas called for the presence of all Palestinian forces and for the meeting to be held in Yemen under his sponsorship."

On the smaller meeting with Fatah, he said that "we have promised to study the idea, which is logical because Hamas and Fatah are the two biggest factions, but we made it a condition that all Fatah's Central Committee members should attend but not (President Yasir) 'Arafat."

On the circumstances of the Hamas Political Bureau delegation's visit to Sanaa, he said: "We received an invitation from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih through a third party, to discuss and examine the various aspects of the Palestinian question in the light of recent developments, especially after the PLO's recognition of the Zionist entity and the signing of the limited autonomy agreement."

He said that during the meeting with the Yemeni president the idea of a dialogue with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat was raised, but "we rejected it because that would have no meaning or political advantage after he signed what he signed. A dialogue would have been useful before the signing. Meeting with him now would mean providing a political cover and lending legitimacy to what he did."

The Hamas delegation was headed by Political Bureau Chairman Musa Abu-Marzuq and included Political Bureau member Khalid Mash'al and Ghawshah.

He said that "Hamas explained to the Yemeni leadership the concessions and risks implied in the agreement, not only for the Palestinians but also for the neighbors of Palestine and for the Arab and Islamic nations."

He added that "the prevailing concern during the meeting with the Yemeni president was the president's fear of Palestinian infighting. We assured him that we prohibit fighting between sons of the same nation and that Hamas aims its force at the enemy but is committed to the intifadah and jihad operations. We told him that we hope the Palestinian police forces would not be dragged into a confrontation with the Palestinian people and their freedom to resist the occupation through the intifadah, and would not place themselves in the same position as Lahd's forces in southern Lebanon."

As regards the date of the Palestinian factions' meeting, he said that "we are currently in contact with the various national forces and figures to hold a conference as early as possible because there is a vacuum in the wake of the PLO's collapse following its recognition of Israel and its right to exist, leaving no organization and no liberation."

Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas's representative in Jordan, told AL-HAYAH after the signing of the agreement at the White House: "I feel extremely depressed. There is nothing to celebrate today. Only the Israelis can celebrate because they got territory, recognition, and legitimacy. This is a black day for us because our land is still occupied, our people are still being killed, and scores of thousands of our best people are in detention camps."

He added that "this is the political end of the PLO leadership. The Palestinian people will realize within a few weeks, not years, the extent of the PLO's concession." He further said that "Rabin insulted us even during the signing ceremony when he slapped (Palestinian President Yasir) 'Arafat with the declaration that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel. How would 'Arafat fulfill the Palestinian people's rights after two or three years when we would be in a more difficult position with, as 'Arafat desires, the cessation of the intifadah?"

He said that Hamas' strategy in the coming phase will be "continuation of the armed struggle against Israeli military targets even in Gaza and Jericho if there were any military targets there. They would be the target of our fury against the occupation forces."

Urges Referendum To Show Opposition

LD1609155693 Tripoli JANA in English 1500 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] London/ el Fateh [September] 16/ JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—Ibrahim Ghawshah, an official of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement said that the movement would continue to resist the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement. In a statement to BBC radio, Ghawshah said that the Hamas movement would expose the dangers in this agreement to the Palestinian people and

called for a popular referendum of the entire Palestinian people to prove their opposition to this agreement.

PFLP's Habash Warns of Infighting, Urges 'Struggle'

JN1609180193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus, 16 Sep (SANA)—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has addressed a message to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the diaspora, lashing out at the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and deeming it a relinquishment of all national and pan-Arab rights to the enemy in return for frail administrative self-rule.

Habash noted that according to the agreement, Israel gets everything, adding that the settlements are still spreading like cancer all over the land of Palestine. Occupation troops are still engaged in killing, demolishing, arresting, and stealing our water and natural resources.

He warned Palestinians against being dragged into the snare of internecine Palestinian fighting, urging an escalation of struggle until the achievement of all of our objectives of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Split in PFLP Denied

JN1609180493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus, 16 Sep (SANA)—Talal Ahmad, official in charge of information at the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has criticized statements PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat made on his way back from Washington to Tunis.

Ahmad said these statements constitute a provocation to the Palestinian forces opposing the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and an instigation to start inter-Palestinian fighting. He denied reports circulated by Israel yesterday on a split in the PFLP, which, he said, will continue working to foil the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

More on PFLP, DFLP Opposition to Agreement

PM1609132993 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 13-19 Sep 93 pp 25-29

[Zaki Shihab and Ibrahim Hamdi report: "Habash and Hawatimah Confirm Divorce From 'Arafat"]

[Excerpts] London, Damascus—The "Gaza-Jericho first" option has preoccupied the Palestinian leaders and influential forces inside and outside the occupied territory. While the PLO continued its negotiations with a view to signing and then selling the agreement, organizations close to Damascus have intensified their campaign against President Yasir 'Arafat. Views in the occupied territory were divided among support, opposition, and reservation. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has reaffirmed its opposition to the use of force [to foil the PLO-Israeli accord]. AL-WASAT has monitored Palestinian reaction in Damascus, Gaza, and the West Bank.

The Palestinian organizations close to Damascus have emphatically rejected the "Gaza-Jericho first" plan which, they believe, "legitimizes the Israeli occupation of Arab territory, gives up Jerusalem, overlooks the issue of Israeli settlements, and allows the expansion of these settlements." [passage omitted]

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has threatened to answer those who "trigger civil war." He recalled the fate of late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat. He told AL-WASAT that "PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has no right to sign an agreement about the Palestinian people's fate because he represents no one but himself." He pointed out that the draft agreement "is tantamount to a capitulation agreement worse than the Madrid formula and not even comparable to the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli agreement." [passage omitted] He noted that "the draft does not provide for withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho but, instead, for the withdrawal of some forces while retaining and beefing up the settlements permanently, and it gives up greater Jerusalem, which Israel wants as its capital and which would mean recognition of Israel without defined borders, along with the cancellation of the PLO's program and charter as well as the right to repatriation."

He said that the agreement would "flood the Gaza Strip and Jericho with dual coercion forces, namely a strong Palestinian police force under the command of 'Arafat and the appointed unelected council, and the Israeli forces." [passage omitted]

He said that the agreement stipulates that "if 'Arafat succeeds in quelling the intifadah he would open the way for the extension of autonomy to other areas in the West Bank, but if he fails, the Israeli forces would return to their previous positions in the densely populated areas." Finally, he said that the agreement "violates all the resolutions of the various Palestinian bodies and frustrates the aspirations of the Palestinian people and the hopes of 4 million refugees in the diaspora."

Asked what steps the DFLP would take against the draft agreement, which he refused to call an option because it was not put to the Palestinian people as such, Hawatimah said: "If 'Arafat resorts to arms as he did last year against us and Hamas, we have a long arm and would have an answer to those who ignite the fires of civil war because blood should be shed in the struggle for an honorable life for our people under the sun and for putting an end to occupation." He mentioned the fate of al-Sadat, "who was rejected by all the Arab people even though he regained all Sinai and eliminated the settlements before signing any agreement."

The second step will be "the DFLP's boycott of the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and Central Council so as not to lend legitimacy to 'Arafat's actions." [passage omitted]

Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], sees the draft agreement as "the biggest blow to the Palestinian national struggle in its history because it does not provide answers regarding the issues of the settlements, Jerusalem, and 4 million Palestinians in the diaspora, and it means the total collapse of the PLO leadership because of that plan." In a statement to AL-WASAT, Habash said that "a major political theory emerges, as a result of the agreement, regarding the future of the PLO, which has collapsed nationally, for the PLO represented all the aspirations of the Palestinian people on the basis of its charter, political program, and struggle march. ... its abandonment of the armed struggle and amendment of major articles of the charter give rise to questions about the PLO's survival as the people's representative after the collapse of its leadership." [passage omitted]

Habash said that his organization was, at leadership level, considering withdrawal from PLO institutions "now that the PLO leadership has abandoned its objectives and the idea of a popular referendum, particularly when one considers what 'Arafat used to say about the Palestinian arena being a model of democracy."

Regarding the measures the PFLP would take in the face of that draft agreement, Habash said the front would concentrate on three areas:

"1. The masses, in order to expose the truth about the plan, and also the broad front of democratic, Islamic, and national forces.

"2. Escalation of the armed struggle and revolutionary violence, as guaranteed by the United Nations.

"3. Concerted efforts for a meeting of Arab leaders, especially those of the cordon states, to ask them if they consider 'Arafat and his line to represent the Palestinian people."

He is against turning intra-Palestinian differences into internal conflicts. He warned against that "lest it fulfill the Israeli foreign minister's aim of Palestinian infighting and destroy the Palestinian cause." He said that "any action by Hamas would be a red line," but he did not rule out " 'Arafat doing that" if the Palestinian people at home said what they thought of "the treasonous plan."

Meanwhile, in a statement to AL-WASAT, Fadl Shururu, spokesman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has denied that PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril threatened 'Arafat. He said that Jibril's words were not as cited in the media. He said that Jibril only reminded 'Arafat of the fate of the late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat and that "the people will not allow the defeatists to undermine their history and future."

Shururu reaffirmed the PFLP-GC's rejection of the draft agreement. [passage omitted]

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team and head of the Crescent Society in the Gaza Strip, said: I am really not happy about this agreement because it does not ask Israel to drop its claims to the occupied territories. As we know, the Israeli position is that Israel is not an occupation force. That means that the occupied territories are disputed territories. That is why Israel kept on building settlements. [passage omitted]

He added: There is a danger of civil war and internal conflicts in the occupied territories. I have worked against that trend in the past and will do so in the future because fighting between Palestinian brothers would not serve the interests of any Palestinian. I condemn any assassination threats and I say that the matter should be addressed democratically. I will be the first to stand against acts of violence because they would only lead to destruction. [passage omitted]

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Furayj said: "I consider the Oslo agreement to be a historic agreement. I fully support it and I call on all the Palestinian people to rally around the leadership of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat." [passage omitted]

Qaddumi, Other Factions Reportedly Support Agreement

PM1609151593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Sep 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Opposition Backtracks on Establishment of Alternative PLO"]

[Text] London, Political Studies Center—An authoritative Palestinian source has emphasized that PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi's tour, which has started in Jordan and will include Iraq and Syria, is designed to clarify the Palestinian leadership's position concerning the conclusion of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, rally support for it, and expand the range of backing for it.

The source said that Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], who abstained from signing the agreement in question and declined to go to Washington to participate in the signing ceremony, has managed to unite Fatah's opposition and control the opposition of some Fatah Central Committee members to ensure that it is internal rather than external opposition.

According to the source, immediately upon his arrival in Amman he held a meeting for the Fatah Central Committee members present there. Among them were 'Abbas Zaki, who is in charge of the intifadah, and Salim al-Za'nun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council.

They all agreed—despite the opposition to the the Palestinian-Israeli agreement by some of them—on the need to thwart any attempt to set up an alternative PLO.

As is well known, some of the Damascus-based Palestinian factions which are opposed to the peace process have recently—in cooperation with some independent Palestinians in Jordan like lawyer Ibrahim Bakr—begun to work in earnest to form an alternative PLO that Iran and some Arab states could support.

Oppositionists on the Palestinian scene had banked on the possibility that Qaddumi and some of Fatah's main leaders would join them in setting up the required alternative PLO. But this hope was soon dispelled after Abu-al-Lutf on several occasions recently emphasized that, if he wants to exercise opposition, he will do so only from within Fatah and on the ground of the present PLO.

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's source, after Qaddumi watched the ceremony held for the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the White House lawn the day before yesterday he became more convinced of the usefulness of this agreement. And he announced in front of a number of Fatah Central Committee members and senior cadres in the movement that he actually supports it, though he has some objections to it.

Abu-al-Lutf, who is now closer to the position of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and other moderates in the Palestinian leadership, is currently trying to unify the Palestinian position, on the grounds that opposition should be exercised from inside the PLO itself, and to issue a charter of honor prohibiting infighting and civil war and stressing the need to resolve disagreements and differences democratically.

It is noted that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which Abu-al-Lutf's attempts will certainly include, has recently reduced the scale of its opposition. Its branch in the Gaza Strip adopted an extremely moderate position when it concluded a successful agreement with Fatah on how to oppose the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and how to support and celebrate it. [sentence as published]

It is also noted that the occupied territories branch of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by Dr. George Habash, issued a widely distributed statement supporting 'Arafat and backing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

At this level, the available information speaks of a split in the occupied territories branch of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by Nayif Hawatimah. It is said that a big wing of this branch has rejected the position of its Damascus-based leadership and the opposition to the agreement and announced its support for the step on which the Palestinian leadership has embarked.

As is well known, the pro-Iraq Ba'th Party inside the occupied territories has adopted a position different from that of its leadership in Baghdad and issued a statement announcing its independence from the Iraqi leadership, its adherence to the PLO leadership, and its support for all its political steps.

The rapid development of events and the emergence of major support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement inside the occupied territories and among Palestinian communities abroad have confused the Palestinian forces which have adopted an oppositionist position toward this agreement. Thus the unification of the Fatah leadership's position as a result of the past and present efforts of Abu-al-Lutf came as a huge disappointment for the forces and tendencies which had banked on the possibility of setting up an alternative PLO.

'Arafat Thanks al-Majali for Congratulations

JN1609173493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Sep 93

["Text" of letter from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali; date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali: Greetings: On behalf of myself, the PLO Executive Committee, and the Palestinian people, I thank you for your brotherly sentiments and congratulations on reaching an agreement on a declaration of principles for the interim period. We thank you, your government, and the brother Jordanian people for the warm congratulations. These congratulations reflect the brotherly, pan-Arab stands and common destiny binding our brother Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. They express the wise and courageous policies charted by His Majesty brother King Husayn in the interest of the Palestinian cause and identity, and the independence of the Palestinian track and common Arab action supporting our Palestinian people's just struggle.

I would like to emphasize our pride in and our appreciation of the important part you personally had in leading the negotiations in our joint track. I hold the same sentiments for all members of the Jordanian delegation, in recognition of their efforts. In the meantime, I will stress our desire to continue coordination, cooperation, and consultation.

I take this opportunity to reiterate our eagerness to continue to develop and strengthen Palestinian-Jordanian coordination and pool our efforts in all areas to promote the best possible forms of relations between us, based on a unity of goals and objectives—a fact underlined by the meetings we had with His Majesty King Husayn and at those between Palestinian and Jordanian officials. These relations have been organized and charted by coordination and joint action committees in pursuit of confederacy, in accordance with the free choice of the brother Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

As our national and pan-Arab cause enters a turning point, we embark on a new era that witnesses the first Israeli

recognition of the national and political rights of our Palestinian people, and the PLO as their sole representative.

In this era, our Palestinian people recover a dear part of our occupied Palestinian land in Gaza and the Jericho area, ahead of a transitional self-rule in the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem.

We beseech God to grant us success in the stage of construction in the interest of our people and Arab nation.

As we reiterate our commitment to a comprehensive settlement on all Arab fronts, we see this important agreement that we have reached as a boost for joint Arab action, especially among the five Arab states, to bring about full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory, as called for by UN resolutions and international legitimacy, including UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

I pray God will grant success to brotherly Jordan, led by my brother His Majesty King Husayn. I wish you presonally the best of health and success in bringing about advancement and prosperity for our brother Jordnian people.

May God grant you success; God's peace and mercy be upon you. Together until victory leads us to liberated Jerusalem, God willing.

[signed] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman

Official Assesses Requirements for Accord's Success

JN1609150593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Sep 93 p 24

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Dr. Taysir 'Aruri, deputy chairman of the [Palestinian] strategic negotiations committee, has said the Palestinian-Israeli accord could become a historic milestone for the Palestinian people on the road to achieving self-determination and national independence.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, Dr. 'Aruri criticized those who attack the accord via deception and fabrication. He also criticized those who support the accord, thinking it is a great accomplishment—as if the occupation has ended and statehood and independence are guaranteed. Dr. 'Aruri rejected all manifestations of loyalty and personal support, stressing that loyalty should first and foremost be to the homeland, the people, and the issue.

Dr. 'Aruri said: From an economic point of view, the success of the Palestinian model in the Gaza Strip and Jericho cannot be assured only by depending on promises and commitments by international and Arab financial and economic parties. These promises and commitments will help, no doubt, but Palestinian capital, investment, and economic expertise can play a decisive role. In other words, Palestinians, particularly in the diaspora, will play a decisive role in this.

He added: I believe the issues of democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights will be decisive for determining the extent of the interest by Palestinian investors in working and investing inside the territories. Many wealthy Palestinians and Palestinian investors have recently emphasized this to me.

Dr. 'Aruri said tangible measures by the Israeli Government in the occupied territories, in terms of respecting the provisions and the spirit of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, will be instrumental in making the Palestinian-Israeli accord a success.

He asked: Will Rabin's government stop all aspects of settlement activity? Will it stop blowing up houses and confiscating land? Will Rabin's government release thousands of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons? Will it return the deportees? Will it stop all acts of barbaric repression against Palestinian citizens? Dr. 'Aruri added: The coming days and weeks will answer these questions.

Asked about the stand adopted by forces that oppose and others that support the Israeli-Palestinian accord, Dr. 'Aruri said the Palestinian national interest requires both forces to deal with the accord with more rationality, understanding, and objectivity. The Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles is close to what might be considered a compromise solution between two sides that differ in principles and stands on various negotiating issues and topics. Hence, this accord cannot be considered a historic triumph or a historic defeat for either of the two sides, as far as the achievement of objectives is concerned. From the Palestinian interest's viewpoint, the declaration of principles contains many positive as well as negative points within a general formula characterized by ambiguity and lack of definition. These points can be interpreted in various ways. So, the declaration of principles is neither black, as the Palestinian opposition sees it, nor white, as some supporting groups see it.

Dr. 'Aruri said this accord has the potential of becoming a historic accomplishment for the Palestinian people and an important turning point toward achieving the right to self-determination and national independence. This can be done if we can prevent violent conflicts in Palestinian streets. However, at the same time, the opposition should have the right to express its stands in a democratic atmosphere. If the Palestinian political leadership mobilizes all Palestinian forces, resources, and capabilities, inside the territories and in the diaspora, to build a democratic, modern, and civilized model in the Gaza Strip and Jericho first, and draws plans to implement this—avoiding unilateralism, fanaticism, factionalism, and narrowmindedness—this could help ensure the success of the Palestinian side in accomplishing its duty, something that is not easy to do. The future of the Palestinian national struggle is at stake. The main duty is to resolve all the issues postponed until negotiations on

the final stage in the interest of the Palestinian people, and consequently to take a big step toward achieving the right to self-determination.

Dr. 'Aruri added: If the Palestinian side fails to create such a model and creates an alternative backward model, then the Palestinians outside Jericho and Gaza, whether inside the rest of the occupied territories or in the diaspora, will not have a strong incentive to continue the Palestinian struggle in order to join this model.

He said: First and foremost, accomplishing this duty requires enlightening the Palestinian masses of the contents of the declaration of principles, without falsification or exaggeration, in order to mobilize the forces of these masses to take maximum advantage of all the avenues opened by this accord and to realize its deficiencies so they can deal with them.

Commentary Views Criticism of Accord With Israel

LD1709050793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Those who are attempting to differentiate between the agreement reached on transitional self-rule and the course of the national struggle of our Palestinian Arab people are as wrong as the pessimists who belittled the revolution of the freedom fighters [fida'iyyin] in the past—fighters who confronted one of the strongest armies in the world with their light personal weapons—and who did not believe in the armed revolution as a process of the liberation of Palestinian national soil. In the climate of preoccupation with working on the land and for the sake of the land, the belief in waiting for the possibility of quick liberation by the Arab and Muslim armies gives way because of numerous imperatives.

We are now at the juncture of fighting with the truth, and for the sake of the truth we have initiated an historic experience in a direction opposite to the (?revolutionary) course. This is not done by eloquence, or by deepening the diaspora and consolidating the estrangement of generations from Palestine, but by persistent effort, by planting what is good in the land, and by creating a Palestinian presence that will gain assured immortality, advancement, and loftiness. [passage omitted]

The texts in our hands at this historic juncture may not be satisfactory and may not be a source of assurance for all of us. This is logical, because the rift between our ideological message and our political message that supports what was signed in Washington seems enormously wide; it may even seem horrific. However, the commitments of our struggle and national movement make it imperative that the 1,000 mile march must start with the same step. It is no secret to anyone that any march or step in any era would be ruled by objective factors that no one except poets and dreamers can skip over.

For the Palestinian national movement to be a movement and not be inactive, it has to adapt itself to the turbulent climate that surrounds it. The agreement reached does not need so much a justification as it needs a responsible explanation filled with the spirit of the Palestinian experience and representing its history.

Despite what surrounds us and despite the widening rift between the historical concepts in our minds—our memory of the sacred cause for which we are struggling and the texts signed—Israel's acknowledgement of our people's right to take responsibility for themselves, of the need for the termination of the occupation, and Israel's acknowledgment that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people is a step toward attaining national rights. No one would disagree about the impossibility of its attainment in a short period of time.

We have to note with great optimism that the political events and interactions currently taking place in the world arena and actually in the land have entered into a race with the texts that have been signed. Signs have begun to appear on the horizon of an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho at earlier dates than those stipulated in the texts. We have begun to receive news of great efforts in the West Bank—and also Holy Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip—to plan and set up an independent state with its sons, land, waters, sky, and border.

At the political level, the PLO—the nursemaid of our national struggle—came out of the depths of a bottle at a moment in history [words indistinct] in which, until the recent past, we could not secure contacts between representatives of the PLO and some brotherly countries that did justice to our people and our struggle. However, the truth has its rewards, which appear and assert themselves without seeking permission. With the wings of that truth, the Palestinian president flies to wherever in the world he wants, accompanied by the leader of the state that dominates the world and that long ignored our repeated calls for the realization of a just peace.

Paper Sees Agreement as Small Step Toward Solution

PM1609140593 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Sep 93 p 11

[Editorial: "New Phase Requiring New Mentalities"]

[Text] We cannot say that the agreement signed at the White House in Washington yesterday between the Palestinian and Israeli sides is an ideal solution to the first Arab central issue. However, it remains a step—albeit small—on the road to that solution. The agreement—any agreement—is the product of its own regional and international circumstances. No one can deny that the Arab nation is in its worst situation and is very weak at present. Today's world is dominated by the U.S. power, and in it small peoples are crushed.

The Palestinian Arab people have long suffered from Zionist repression and the injustice of their kinfolk as well.

They have been exposed to an unfair and unprecedented blockade and starvation process on the pretext of their leadership's position in the Gulf war. Perhaps the time has come for this people to take a breather, even for a short period, under a half peace if full peace is not available.

We do not believe that anyone can accuse this people of not making sacrifices or of reluctance in performing their national duties. They have suffered thousands of martyrs, wounded, and handicapped in their long struggle march. Suffice it to say that the occupation prisons and detention centers host over 14,000 strugglers of different ages on one charge—confronting the occupation.

True, there are numerous loopholes in the agreement, most importantly the deferment of the major issues like Jerusalem's future, the refugee issue, the settlements' status, the borders, and so on. But there are also positive points in the agreement which cannot be ignored, namely that for the first time there will be a Palestinian entity safeguarding the identity and representing a base from which to move toward the future.

Everyone acknowledges that Israel has made big gains from this agreement. It has gained recognition and legitimacy, and it is looking forward to using this as a bridge to reach Arab markets. No one can believe that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who crushed the bones of the youths of the intifadah, is interested in the Palestinian people and their interests. The man has interests and realizes that the opportunity available at present is irreplaceable. Thus he decided to go ahead with this agreement in order to get what he could not get from the Arabs when they were stronger and more united.

All signs indicate that this agreement will hold, because it enjoys the support of the biggest power in the world, the United States, and the support of most Arab states, be this voluntary or for fear of the consequences of rejection. Any view contrary to this is a delusion.

Thus any attempt to sabotage the agreement would harm the Palestinians and serve the Israelis' interests. Wisdom demands that all efforts unite to benefit from the positive aspects of the agreement and support those standing fast in the occupied territories, those who have been continuing their intifadah for five years.

Palestinian opposition is required, because any Palestinian entity to be established must be a democratic entity that respects and appreciates the other opinion. Democracy is the only foundation that can guarantee continuation for this entity.

Today's agreement is a challenge for the Palestinians and their leadership. And we must remember that not only the Israelis who will be watching the Palestinian performance, but the Palestinians themselves as well. They will watch their leadership, their new administration in the occupied territories, and its ability to effectively move from revolutionary administration to state administration.

We had hoped that today would be a happy day for every Palestinian house, but as long as there are some who believe the agreement is not sufficient, this is a guarantee that the Palestinian people will continue their struggle to achieve all their national aims and aspirations.

Dissident Fatah Commander Dies of Heart Attack in Beirut

JN1709085993 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpt] The [dissident] Fatah Central Committee announces to our steadfast Palestinian masses and to our Arab and Islamic nation the martyrdom of militant commander Muhammad Mahdi 'Ali Busaysu, also known as Abu-'Ali Mahdi, deputy secretary of the Fatah Central Committee, who was martyred in Beirut following a heart attack today.

The Fatah Central Committee said in a statement today: As Fatah bids farewell to its leader martyr at this delicate stage through which our national cause is passing— as a result of the dangers and grave damage inflicted on it by the shameful agreement signed by traitor 'Arafat and his clique with the Zionist enemy—it renews its pledge to the leader martyr that it will continue to raise the banner high and promises him that it will abide by the principles and objectives of the movement for which he struggled, was displaced, and martyred. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Prime Minister Asserts Algeria Not in Civil War

LD1609222793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Redha Malek met today with the directors of publicly- and privately-owned press establishments. He listened to their worries and the problems facing the information sector in Algeria. More details with Nassira Ait Salah:

[Salah] For the first time since he was appointed head of government, Mr. Redha Malek received the director of publicly- and privately-owned press establishments. The head of government wanted the meeting to be his first contact with journalists.

[Begin Malek recording] The role of the press, given the situation facing the country, is an important and a vital one. As far as the state is concerned, it will encourage this sector because the role of the press is an important one. For if we want to make progress and continue the march of democracy, we ought to preserve and consolidate free speech. Of course you are responsible. We do not want to tell you what freedom of speech is all about. You should yourselves know how to exercise such a freedom, but we all should however work together to improve the situation. [end recording]

[Salah] [passage omitted] As far as the security problem was concerned, the head of government stressed that Algeria is not in a state of civil war, as a number of foreign quarters have been propagating. Of course there are some terrorist groups, but the security forces will fully carry out their duties. He added that the authorities, whether at the local or the national level, must take part in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Redha Malek has announced a number of new measures to protect state institutions as well as individuals, and he added: We are going to continue our fight against terrorism until stability is regained in the country. He concluded by hailing the national press for the role it has played thus far.

[Begin Malek recording] We can say that the press has contributed greatly to the consolidation of democracy and the principles upon which our state was founded. [end recording]

African Development Bank Grants Loan for Water Projects

LD1709041893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Algeria has obtained a $220 million loan from the African Development Bank and its subsidiary branch, the African Development Fund. The statement of the African Development Bank—which made this announcement—said that the loan would be applied toward implementing two programs to provide potable water for Algiers and another 15 towns.

In addition, during the ceremony marking the signing of a 70 million ECU loan for the social housing sector, our ambassador in Belgium stated that the Algerian Government was fully prepared on the economic and political levels to define its new relations with the EC.

Egypt

Ingratitude Toward Egypt's Peace Role Perceived

JN1609170593 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Sep 93 p 1

[Editorial by AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi': "And Everyone Forgot Egypt"]

[Text] I do not need to say how happy I am with the mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinians, and with the Gaza- Jericho First agreement. It is the first step in settling the Palestinian problem. For the first time, it gives Palestinians a place, on their land, over which the Palestinian flag will flutter. But, in spite of all this, I felt much regret and pain watching the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles being signed at the White House ceremony, listening to the speeches from U.S. President Clinton, Palestinian President 'Arafat, and Mahmud 'Abbas-Abu-Mazin. They all spoke about the historic event and the historic moment, distributing thanks to all who participated in bringing it about. None of them mentioned, directly or indirectly, the one whose fate, it seems, is always to offer sacrifices and assume the burden, and to be forgotten by all amid happy times and celebrations. We mean our beloved country, Egypt, and its struggling president, Husni Mubarak.

Everyone thanked the United States, the Soviet Union [country as published], Norway, and the Israeli prime minister, praising their roles in bringing about peace. But, they forgot Egypt. With its fingernails and the lives of its martyrs, Egypt carved the road to peace out of stone. Egypt paved the way with pain and hard work for those who followed. Egypt had to put up with the tantrums of those held captive by rigid ideas and empty slogans, including some who stood in the White House garden rejoicing before the world at their historic achievement.

We regret to say that they forgot Egypt. They forgot the martyr of peace, the late Anwar al-Sadat. They forgot Husni Mubarak, who persistently works to bring about a just peace for the Palestinians and for all the peoples of the region. Had it not been for his commitment to the peace course, set by al-Sadat, his insistence on following it over the past years, and his ceaseless efforts with all parties, those meeting in the White House garden would not have attained what they are now so proud of.

The only one who slightly mentioned this role was the U.S. Secretary of State, Christopher. He cursorily mentioned the diplomatic role the Egyptian Foreign Ministry played, without referring to the more important political role, of which the diplomatic role is a minor part.

As for 'Arafat, he briefly thanked "the Arab leaders" without differentiating between those who had exerted strenuous efforts to place his people's cause at the beginning of the road and those who did nothing, not to mention those who hampered this step with all the power they could muster. It would have been better if he had mentioned the important Egyptian role or the role Saudi Arabia and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two mosques, had played in this respect.

Egypt is not asking for anyone's thanks or praise. Its high and sublime status does not need to be elevated by anybody's thanks or gratitude.

I am only reproaching those who, in the excitement of the ceremony, forgot to acknowledge, just for the record, Egypt's role in making the ceremony itself possible. I would like to ask each one of them: Would it have been possible, under any circumstances, for the Israelis and Palestinians to arrive at this agreement without Egypt's support and effort? This is not to mention Egypt's pioneering peace role in taking the risks of pioneers and adhering to this option in the face of tempests and violent reactions.

Would it have been possible for the White House to welcome 'Arafat had it not been for the efforts of Egypt and Mubarak over many years to bring viewpoints closer and to make resumption of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue possible?

U.S. President Bill Clinton, who ignored Egypt's role in his speech at the White House, will be the first to know the efforts exerted by Egypt and Mubarak with the Israeli and Palestinian sides to make the mutual recognition and the Gaza-Jericho agreement possible.

The Palestinian president himself will be the first to know what Egypt and Muabark did, especially in past months, with the Israeli side to expand the scope of the agreement to include Jericho in the West Bank alongside Gaza, a measure indicating the extension of the agreement to include the West Bank, a sign that it is not confined to the Gaza Strip. Egypt did this, and much more. But the time has not come for making that public. It suffices to mention a recent event in this regard:

On 21 July, President Mubarak sent Dr. Mustafa Khalil with a message to Rabin. During a working luncheon hosted by Shim'on Peres, attended by three ministers and 20 leading figures from the Labor Party, Egypt proposed the idea of recognizing the PLO and helping it financially. Peres reacted, angrily: "Does Egypt want us to recognize the PLO?" Mustafa Khalil answered by "emphasizing" this view, and Egypt's analysis of the reasons and motives that support the Egyptian viewpoint. On 27 August, days before recognition was announced, THE JERUSALEM POST came out with a report confirming that Egypt had proposed to Israel the idea of recognizing the PLO. The paper said in an editorial: "The most surprising thing is the fact that Israel seems to have actually accepted that proposal." Some Palestinians have recently said, on more than one occasion, that the seeds for the "Gaza-Jericho" agreement started months ago during a meeting between Mubarak and Rabin in Ismailia.

The Palestinians and the entire Arab world are well aware that without Egypt and without Mubarak, it would not have been possible to arrive at the mutual recognition and the self-rule agreement. In fact, I do not wish to spoil the Palestinians' joy in the festival or peace with this remark, which some people may think is marginal. But, I just wonder about the destiny of Egypt, which imposes responsibilities, burdens, and sacrifices and then deprives Egypt of the right to be thanked and praised, when thanks and praise are due.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat probably does not entertain the illusion that his entry into the White House the day before yesterday will enable him to do away with Egypt's role and efforts. Those who made speeches, particularly President Clinton, most likely realize the injustice done in denying others' efforts.

Palestinian Envoy on 'Gratitude' for Mubarak Role

NC1609154393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat was eager to travel to Alexandria to meet his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, noting that this was 'Arafat's first visit after signing the declaration of principles in Washington.

In a statement issued today following the meeting between 'Arafat and Mubarak in Alexandria, the ambassador said 'Arafat expressed full appreciation and gratitude to President Mubarak personally and to the people and Government of Egypt under his wise leadership for their efforts throughout the negotiations, in Washington and Oslo. Mubarak worked tirelessly to surmount all the obstacles to the agreement to ensure that the legitimate Palestinian rights can be achieved, he said.

The ambassador said in his statement that the Palestinian president stressed to President Mubarak that if the Palestinian speeches in Washington failed to extend thanks to the president, Government, and people of Egypt, this could never affect the role of Egypt and its president, a role that has never been absent and can never be.

The statement said that during his meeting with U.S. President Clinton and his top aides, the Palestinian president highlighted Egypt's central role, noting that Mubarak is the president of the biggest Arab country,

enjoying international respect and playing a pioneering role in establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

On another subject, the Palestinian ambassador explained that President Mubarak responded to President 'Arafat's request to place Egyptian expertise in every field at the disposal of the Palestinian leadership as it tries to rebuild the infrastructure and the economic, social, and security institutions in the occupied Palestinian territories.

He said President Mubarak requested an outline for a Palestinian plan so that Egypt can start securing Palestinian needs and make them ready when the implementation of the peace agreement begins.

Cairo To Focus on Israeli 'Commitment' To Leave Golan

NC1709104193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH believes confidence-building along the Palestinian-Israeli track does not rule out the need to make progress along the other tracks. It is important to focus on Israel's commitment to pull out completely from all the occupied Syrian territories in return for Syria's ending the state of war with Israel, the paper says.

In an editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH says Egypt's political and diplomatic efforts will focus on this commitment. These efforts emanate from Egypt's sense of responsibility toward peace in the region and because this step brings the peace process closer to being actively integrated and facilitates the dynamic action by the parties concerned, the peace conference sponsors, and the world in general.

The paper believes the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles is the first step on the right course and that it undoubtedly reflects the Palestinian people's political awareness and recognition of their goals and the paths leading to them.

AL-JUMHURIYAH calls on the PLO leaders to act quickly to enhance the moderate line so that everybody can share in the process of establishing the self-government authority and thus ruin the bet that some place on potential conflict within the occupied territories.

Report of Terror Suspect on Red Sea Coast Denied

NC1709072493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0559 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—An official security source has denied a report by a foreign news agency that a person was caught in possession of a bomb in the vicinity of a tourist village on the Red Sea coast.

A foreign news agency had reported that this was the first time attacks had targeted tourist villages, referring to some incidents that occurred in Upper Egypt last year.

The source appealed to foreign news agencies to verify reports before publication, affirming that the Interior Ministry instantly publicizes the facts to all.

Troops Complete Mine-Clearing Operation in Kuwait

NC1509100693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0759 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian troops stationed in Kuwait have finished clearing mine fields and removing explosives, and are scheduled to return to Cairo early next week.

The troops, affiliated with the Armed Forces Engineering Corps, carried out their mission in record time; the area to which they were assigned was one of the biggest and most difficult in terms of the number of mines in it. The area is in west Kuwait and extends as far as the al-'Awjah triangle, southwest of Kuwait.

Egyptian troops were at the forefront of forces arriving in Kuwait at the request of the Kuwaiti Government following the liberation war to clear the Kuwaiti areas of mines left behind by the Iraqi troops during their seven-month occupation of Kuwait. Other troops from Turkey, Pakistan, France, the United States, Bangladesh, and Britain are also clearing mines and explosives in Kuwait along with the Egyptian troops. A preliminary estimate indicates that the mine-clearing operations in Kuwait have cost $2 billion.

Petition To Replace Judge in 'Abd-al-Rahman Case Rejected

NC1609140893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1259 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 16 Sep (MENA)—The Bani Suwayf Appeals Court, al-Fayyum district, has rejected the petition to change Counselor 'Izzat al-'Ashmawi, president of the Higher State Security Court- Emergency in al-Fayyum, which is looking at the case of retrying Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, mufti of the al-Jihad Organization, and 48 defendants for incidents in the al-Shuhada' Mosque in 1989.

At its session today, the court decided to fine the petitioner defendant Fathi 'Abdallah Taha 1,000 pounds and ordered him to pay the expenses.

The court set 22 September as the date for looking into the petition to change, which was filed by some defendants in the case against the court president and the judge who sits to his right and against the president of the Bani Suwayf Appeals' Court, al-Fayyum district, which is looking into this case and the petition.

Coptic Christians Clash With Muslim Extremists

NC1509210193 Paris AFP in English 1949 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, Sept 15 (AFP)—Dozens of Egyptian Coptic Christians have been wounded in clashes with Muslim fundamentalists in Upper (southern) Egypt, following the murder of two Muslims, Coptic travelers told AFP on Wednesday [15 September].

Tension was high in the Naj' Hammadi region 585 kilometers (363 miles) south of Cairo where the clashes, which began Sunday, occurred after a 12-year-old Coptic girl married to a Muslim converted to Islam.

The girl, Firyal Salih, and her Muslim mother-in-law were killed in the village of Bahjurah near Naj' Hammadi but the circumstances surrounding their deaths were still murky.

Figuring the Copts were behind the double murder, the village's Muslims reacted immediately by setting fire to several houses and shops owned by Copts after first looting them.

The incidents continued Monday and Tuesday spreading to the town of Naj' Hammadi and five nearby villages, all with a predominantly Muslim population.

The sources said dozens of Copts were injured.

Contacted by telephone from Cairo, Coptic residents of Naj' Hammadi and its surrounding areas said security forces stepped in a few hours after the incidents began and had managed to bring the situation under control.

But they said the tension remained high Wednesday in the village of 'Izbat Dawud five kilometers (3.1 miles) north of Naj' Hammadi, where the police was deployed to protect the Copts.

The Coptic travelers said the Coptic girl had been married eight months to her Muslim cousin. Her husband had forged the minor's documents to marry her and after the wedding the girl's in-laws pushed her into converting to Islam.

The girl's family had submitted several complaints to the police, to no avail.

The incidents could not be immediately confirmed from the Interior Ministry.

Extremists have killed 34 Copts, mostly in Upper Egypt, since Muslim fundamentalists launched a campaign to topple the secular government of President Husni Mubarak in March 1992.

Earlier Wednesday, two young Islamic militants were condemned to death for an attack on an Egyptian Army general in which four people were killed, sparking calls for Mubarak's assassination.

Prisons Director Blames Overcrowding for Clashes

NC1509091293 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 9-15 Sep 93 p 2

[Report by Manal al-Ghamri]

[Text] Security forces launched a six-hour campaign last Sunday to restore order and discipline at Abu-Za'bal prison, north of Cairo, but were opposed by prisoners armed with sticks and iron bars. The forces fired tear gas canisters to force the prisoners to open their cells and used police dogs to search them. In the resulting clash, 72 prisoners and 20 policemen, including three officers, were injured.

The campaign was launched after the wide-scale clashes of the previous week, in which political prisoners, mainly Islamists, fought with other prisoners. Three people were killed and more than 100 others were injured.

Following Sunday's disciplinary action, authorities decided to remove about 100 political prisoners to a maximum security prison at Turah south of Cairo.

The director of the prisons department, Police Maj. Gen. Nabil Siyam, blames the recurring violence on overcrowded conditions at Egyptian jails. "This problem has been with us for several years and has been compounded further with the passage of time. But now Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has begun to deal with it."

Siyam said that six new jails are under construction at al-Fayyum, Damanhur, al-Sadis min Uktubar city, and in South Sinai, North Sinai and the al-Wadi al-Jadid. A maximum security prison called al-'Aqrab (scorpion) is nearing completion over a 30-feddan area at Turah and is equipped with an electronic guard system, he said.

Siyam blamed the lack of discipline in Egyptian jails on overcrowding as well as a shortage of police guards. He said Abu- Za'bal for example, was constructed to accommodate 800 inmates but now houses double that number. "Naturally, we cannot maintain strict control over this large number or their visitors. As a result, prohibited materials such as knives, spoons and pens are smuggled into the prison."

He added that only 40 per cent of the required number of police guards are available, "which makes the application of the prison regulations an arduous task." Siyam said that before the latest riots, prison authorities had started to build a fence to separate political prisoners from other inmates, "but before the fence was completed the riots broke out and the prisoners destroyed what had been built with iron bars."

The director feels that conditions behind bars have changed. "In the past, ordinary criminals were the dangerous element, while political prisoners were merely propagandists of destructive ideology. But this has changed now and political prisoners are more dangerous and more violent. The proof is that the majority of those who were wounded in the riots were ordinary criminals."

Siyam saw a healthy sign behind the violence, however. "It proves that common criminals are rejecting the ideology of the terrorists and refusing to surrender to their influence," he said. "This is why the terrorists sought to take revenge."

Since the fighting, political prisoners have been separated by another fence from the other inmates. Those who were involved in the riots were denied visiting rights, while 100 "dangerous elements" were removed to a maximum security jail.

Another reason for the lack of discipline, Siyam said, is that guards are prohibited by regulations from carrying firearms into prison cells.

Siyam said that during inspection and disciplinary campaigns at several prisons, the police found a printing press, an underground workshop for the manufacture of explosives, leaflets, fake stamps and permits, nails and matches.

An anti-government terrorist network was discovered carrying out its activities in jail, he said.

125 'Extremists' Transferred

NC1609155093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—Some 125 extremists were transferred today from the Turah prison to a top security prison due to the threat they pose to public security, particularly following the recent incidents in the Turah prison.

Major General Nabil Siyam, assistant interior minister in charge of the Prisons Authority, issued speedy instructions to repair the damage caused by the prisoners during these incidents. The spaces between the prison cells will be closed.

The Prisons Authority organized a search campaign in the Turah prison to restore discipline and control over the extremists inside.

The campaign found large quantities of stones and bricks taken from the prison's walls, which the extremists prepared to use to attack the police, a lot of iron pipes taken from the prison's sanitary equipment, and a large quantity of wood that the extremists obtained from prison facilities, in addition to cooking utensils, knives, and nail clippers.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader on Democracy, Terrorism

NC1509050093 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 7 Sep 93 p 10

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood official spokesman Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi by an unidentified AL-SAFIR correspondent in Cairo, date not given]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SAFIR—The official spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, has expressed the Brotherhood's readiness to work within the framework of the multiparty system and declare a Muslim Brotherhood party.

Al-Hudaybi told AL-SAFIR that his organization is the main political force in the country. He added that the Brotherhood is unwilling to adopt violence as a means of achieving political change, but subscribes to peaceful means. He said that the Brotherhood's vision of change is based on reality, not dreams. This is the text of the dialogue.

[AL-SAFIR] How do you see the Brotherhood's position on the Egyptian political scene?

[Al-Hudaybi] We are the main power on the political scene. Any objective look at political life in Egypt, particularly after the 1987 elections, would verify this view. The elections were a great shock to the regime, as it found out that there is another real force capable of facing it, of rallying popular support, and of turning a cosmetically democratic regime into a genuinely democratic one.

[AL-SAFIR] Does this opinion tally with your boycott of the recent People's Assembly elections?

[Al-Hudaybi] The boycott was because of certain conditions that are unthinkable in any other society. The municipalities law should not have been promulgated in a civilized country at the close of the 20th century. The Consultative Council elections are 100-percent forged. I really wonder at those who see a mistake in the boycott and I refer them to what happens in the People's Assembly. The sales tax law was discussed in less than 24 hours. The business sector law was discussed and passed within less than 48 hours. And, questions to the government are postponed forever. These and other practices mean that there is no other way to deal with this regime than a boycott.

[AL-SAFIR] Let us once again return to your calling yourselves a major force. If this is the case, why do not you declare yourselves a political party?

[Al-Hudaybi] First of all, our views about party life and political life in general are declared and well known.

[AL-SAFIR] Can you enlighten us on these views?

[Al-Hudaybi] The recent multiparty experience in Egypt began with the amendment to the fifth and sixth clauses of the Constitution. Since then, there have been many setbacks. The first setback was when President al-Sadat confronted the parties and detained all its leaders and all leading political figures in the country, declaring that his democracy had claws and fangs.

The second setback was the government's attempt to find a political system that would produce certain results. The issue of party lists is a good example of this. On the surface, this was a good measure and more

democratic than the direct elections. This is because no votes are wasted and all parties are represented according to the percentage of votes they obtain, unlike in direct elections. But in fact, matters were different. If the establishment of parties is contingent upon the authority's approval, then it is the authority that can decide who takes part in the elections and who does not.

The media is important to democracy and pluralism. The media is part of political life. Cairo alone has 15 million inhabitants. How can anyone address them?

How can one address Egypt's population of 60 million if there are no modern media services, such as radio, television, newspapers, magazines, and audio- and videocassettes, and if meetings are not allowed to be held with the masses, who must be contacted personally. If these objective conditions are not fulfilled, the political movement will be completely aborted. This is what has happened. We will not elaborate on the emergency law. However, it is sufficient to say that the basis of party work is to establish contacts with the masses. This law prevents any contact with them. I cannot go to the street, mingle with the masses, and distribute leaflets or booklets to them. Naturally, the television is 100-percent with the government. It does not hear the other viewpoint and does not oppose anything done by the government. The same applies to the radio. The main newspapers—those that are powerful, have capabilities, and are old and well-established—are government newspapers. Restrictions are imposed on all the party newspapers, which are in government hands. All the party newspapers are printed in government printing houses. In addition, the General Investigation Department and the State Security Investigation Department censor and control the newspapers.

In fact, the ruling regime is playing a game with the opposition. It allows parties that do not actually exist and that have failed in elections. It does this to say that the opposition parties are weak. The media then play on this theme.

[AL-SAFIR] Although we respect your view regarding the party experiment, we believe you are trying to refute the government's argument that the opposition parties are weak. Are you confident of your presence on the political street?

[Al-Hudaybi] The Constitution and the law do not prevent the establishment of a religious party. I am an expert in law and I am prepared to argue in this respect. The Constitution stipulates that the official religion of the state is Islam and that the main source of legislation is Islam.

[AL-SAFIR] In this case, do you agree that all forces have the right to establish their parties, even if this leads to the formation of parties by the Islamic groups or Christian parties?

[Al-Hudaybi] Religious parties exist in the United States, Italy, and Germany. Why shouldn't they be allowed in Egypt? Why shouldn't the al-Takfir wa al-Hijrah [Repudiation and Renunciation] party be allowed to propagate its principles? Either the people will support it or oppose it. Moreover, they exist without a party. They have fought without a party. Their nonrecognition has given them the chance to say they are being persecuted. The story of the Christians is strange. One asks why it is persistently appearing now. We have been on the scene since 1928. No Christian has stated that he wants to form a party or has tried to make a party because the aim of a political party is to arrive at power. Do the 5 percent Christians want to govern the 95 percent Muslims? This is illogical and the Copts cannot accept it.

[AL-SAFIR] Will you continue to raise general slogans, as is happening now?

[Al-Hudaybi] We do not raise general slogans. We do not speak about illusions. We work in economy, public freedoms, public health, social affairs, and education. We are the only trend present on the street through the quantities of services we offer to the masses. These services are the ultimate aim of any political or party activity. All this has happened. Our national movement has appeared in parliament. It is not a tame or nominal opposition but an objective movement. This has had an effect on the public to whom they said we are pirates or "madmen" who do not live in this age.

[AL-SAFIR] Permit me to place you in the same category of parties that justify terrorism, because you do not sufficiently condemn terrorism.

[Al-Hudaybi] This is absolutely not right. We forcefully condemn terrorism. Our position is declared, known, and clear. We have issued numerous statements in this regard. But many do not want to read for personal reasons.

[AL-SAFIR] But you also condemn state terrorism in a way that implies you are justifying the terrorism of the groups.

[Al-Hudaybi] This is nonsense and incorrect. It is a groundless accusation. We condemn terrorism and violence in general, whether by individuals or the state, and demand that the reasons for terrorism be tackled in a comprehensive manner. Tackling terrorism by security means alone will not be enough. This will only propel society into cycles of violence and counterviolence. Therefore, we demand solutions to the real problems that reinforce terrorism. We demand political, economic, and social reform—that is, we demand comprehensive reform. Furthermore, we distinguish between terrorism in the sense of using violence and aggression against others and extremism. The latter has different meanings, and can come from numerous religious and nonreligious sources. We also think that the media contain a great deal of obscenity, which violates Islamic and even non-Islamic morality and ethics. Some even contain implicit or explicit attacks on the Islamic creed and the basic rules of Islamic shari'ah. The media, particularly television and radio, do not abide by the basic principles of Islamic shari'ah. We see many who

call themselves secularists, but in fact they are the remnants of Marxism who do not hesitate to direct their writings against the core of the Islamic creed and to attack Islamic morals and ethics.

[AL-SAFIR] I understand from what you said that the Brothers see the need for change in order for Egypt to overcome its crises?

[Al-Hudaybi] Yes, we do see the need for change, and it should come in two ways: either by peaceful means or some other ways that God alone knows how they will come and in what way they will be accomplished. Peaceful change can only take place through freedom and the safeguarding of all human rights, including the right to form political groups and organizations, the media's right to publish and launch newspapers, magazines, radio, and television and through public meetings in which all opinions can be expressed freely. If the channels for peaceful expression are closed and the natural water course is blocked, the water will rise and rise until it finds a channel. This is the danger we warned against long ago and are still warning against. We hope this will not happen in Egypt, because we realize that this course will lead to further setbacks, tragedies, and economic collapse, and could become a channel for foreign influence.

[AL-SAFIR] Could you specify the forces that can carry the banner of change, from your point of view?

[Al-Hudaybi] There are many possibilities. It could be a military coup. The parties so far do not have the real capability to make the change. The problem is that you do not know when the people will move and the fear is that they will move unexpectedly. The Islamists are the only force in the arena. This is what causes concern to the West. You will find them involved in all the current developments, in Algeria, in Egypt, in Jordan, in all the areas of the East. This is natural. The people find the best example in religion and know that their present situation is the result of God's wrath. Finally, I find nothing better than the Almighty's saying: "And God hath full power and control over His affairs; but most among mankind know it not." [Koranic verse]

Morocco

Israel's Rabin on Syrian Talks, Peace Implications

TA1609113793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0809 GMT 16 Sep 93

["Special Rosh Hashanah Interview" with Yitzhaq Rabin, Israeli prime minister and defense minister, by Menashe Raz, Moti Kirschenbaum, Amnon Nadav, Shlomo Raz, Dalya Ya'iri, and Shalom Qital, at the Moroccan king's official guest house in Rabat on 14 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Kirschenbaum] Mr. Prime Minister, the feeling is that the arrangement with Syria had a certain momentum which was either lost or somewhat put on the back burner. Are you disappointed with the Syrians?

[Rabin] I think that, in general, we will have to reach peace with all our neighbors. I examined the negotiations with the Palestinians and with the Syrians, which are the two key tracks. After all, Lebanon will not go for an agreement without a Syrian agreement. As far as Jordan is concerned, if you separate it from the Palestinian problem, it is possible to reach a peace treaty with Jordan within a week. If it so wishes, Jordan will be able to sign a separate peace with us.

At the same time, I thought it was dangerous for Israel to progress on two fronts simultaneously. We should grade things. More than once I have stated that so far, since 1949, we have not managed to reach a limited agreement—be it an armistice, disengagement, or interim, and surely a peace agreement—while conducting simultaneous negotiations with more than a single Arab partner. There is no example for this. Take the armistice agreements in 1949, for instance. We finished the talks with the Egyptians and signed the agreement. We did the same later with the Jordanians, and then with the Syrians, and the Lebanese. The disengagement agreements which followed the Yom Kippur War too—we closed the deal with Egypt and signed it, and later approached Syria and signed. The interim agreement and the peace treaty with Egypt—this was a separate agreement as well.

The Madrid conference brought to the negotiating table four partners in three delegations. What happened with yesterday's agreement? Again, we signed an agreement with a single Arab element, in this case both the outside and local PLO, not conditional on linkage with other elements, although we are committed to reaching a comprehensive agreement with all our neighbors, including the Palestinians. Nevertheless, we reached this stage on a bilateral basis; we will reach a bilateral agreement, with all its attendant conditions, with each one of the Arab elements.

This is an agreement which we should start to implement. At the same time, we should continue the negotiations. Today, for example, the agenda with Jordan was signed. In light of the fact that we did make a move with the Palestinians, if Jordan is prepared to reach peace—please. [passage omitted]

[Qital] Do you believe that the State of Israel will not look the same after this agreement? How do you think it will look?

[Rabin] [passage omitted] The State of Israel should also focus on other spheres. I keep mentioning this: Between 96 and 97 percent of the Jewish citizens of the State of Israel live within the Green Line and united Jerusalem boundaries. It is only between 3 and 4 percent of the Jewish Israeli citizens who live on the Golan Heights, in Judaea and Samaria, and in the Gaza Strip. Israel's

overall economic and social problems then mainly concern these 96 to 97 percent. I think that what is happening—the international atmosphere, the readiness to aid Israel, invest in Israel, and develop its tourism—gives a chance for an economic momentum and a new approach to Israel, and all this is achieved without endangering Israel's security. There are those in Israel who oppose the agreement. I understand them, but those who depict the agreement as a seed for an apocalypse which threatens the existence of Israel—this seems to me to be hysterical and baseless frightening. If these people had not only come and pointed to developments in Iran and to the radical Islamic wave, but also offered ways of handling the situation.... [changes thought] Our cooperation with the Palestinian supporters of the negotiations and the agreement is also an answer to the radical Islamic wave among the Palestinians, not in the territories only. Therefore, upon the start of the new year, let me say that next year will be one of a test indeed, of promoting peace while maintaining security, and of realizing the vision inherent in this solution. The test will lie in the ability to translate it into reality. [passage omitted]

Four Parties Present Election Platforms

LD1609090093

[Editorial Report] Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic at 2147 GMT on 15 September carries 43-minute election campaign program ahead of the upcoming 17 September election of the final one-third of deputies to the House of Representatives.

An announcer introduces the program by saying first it should be recalled that on 25 June the Moroccan people, in the first round of the legislative elections, elected two thirds of the House of Representatives, and on Friday, 17 September, the remaining one third of deputies will be elected in indirect elections by representatives of three organizations: The Professional Chambers Union, the wage-earners body and the regional communal councellors body. He goes on to say that this is the first of a series of electoral broadcasts in which four political parties are given 10 minutes each to explain their electoral programs. The first four parties are the Istiqlal party, the National Rally for the Independents, the National Popular Movement, and the Socialist Union of Popular Forces.

The first to speak is Abdelhak Tazi for the Istiqlal party. His party pledges to work for change in present socio-economic policy and for the setting up of democratic and credible institutions. The party is also committed to bring about the prosperity of businesses, to defend the rights and interests of Moroccans, and human rights, and to ensure the development of the provinces. The Istiqlal Party also calls for the protection of workers and their rights and for an improvement of the minimum wage, and it pledges to work for the promotion of the farming sector and the fight against monopolies and smuggling....

The second to speak is Abd El Ilah Kabbaj for the National rally for the Independents. He urges the representatives of professional bodies, workers and communal councellors to vote for his party, which is committed to developing the role and prerogatives of the communal councils to include matters pertaining to education, health, agriculture and sports. The party also wants the reorganization of the sector of professions, the rehabilitation of the role of tradesmen, revival of the national economy, the reinforcing of the role of agricultural unions, and a modern farming policy at national level. The party pledges to help small businesses and craftsmen.

The third to speak is Akka Ghazi for the National Popular Movement. In calling for the election of his party's candidates, he says that his party pledges to work for the defense of the dignity of the Moroccan citizen and also the general interest of the country. His party will defend small farmers in villages, small traders, teachers, students, expatriate workers, and will seek an improvement of the employer-worker relationship.

The fourth and last to speak is Khaled Alioua for the Socialist Union of Popular Forces. He says his party's motto is loyalty to the homeland and defense of its interests. His party pledges to undertake a thorough study of the Moroccan economy with a view to building a sound and integrated economy, and will work for the protection of workers' interests.

More Parties Present Platforms

LD1709082693

[Editorial Report] Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic at 2130 GMT on 16 September carries a 55-minute election campaign program ahead of the upcoming 17 September election of the final one third of deputies to the House of Representatives. Each candidate is given a 10-minute slot following the announcer's introduction.

Abdelouahed Maache of the Party of Choura and Independence emphasizes his party's long history of sacrifice in the cause of democracy. He calls on voters to shoulder their responsibilities and stresses the importance of the principle of consultation. Finally he says his party stands for social and public security.

Mohand Laensar of the Popular Movement says that his party's program covers all aspects of public life and all sectors of society, including agriculture, industry and local affairs. His party supports decentralization, the ending of inequalities between different regions, and protection for farmers.

Mohamed Moucharek of the Party of Progress and Socialism calls for a new majority in parliament after the introduction of the new constitution, and underlines the need for political change. He says this means there will have to be a new program to ensure social justice. Finally he says that his party would provide representatives who would effectively put forward the interests and concerns of those bodies who are due to vote tomorrow.

Mohamed Merini of the Organization of Democratic and Popular Action says the struggle for constitutional and

political reform will continue. He enumerates the main problems facing Morocco as being unemployment, particularly among young people, health, education, and progress toward full democracy. He calls for an independent government and judiciary, and says that the people must have the final choice on all issues. He says his party is particularly concerned with the defense of workers' rights, including wages, social security and other rights, and support for farmers, particularly during the current drought.

Temaldou Mohamed of the Constitutional Union says that the bodies voting in tomorrow's elections represent the main economic sectors. His party's program recommends a liberal economy and society with freedom and responsibility for all citizens. The party is also concerned with ensuring a balance between rural and urban areas, and free industry and trade.

Belamchi Ahmed Yalin of the Action Party says that his party adheres to the plans outlined by King Hassan II and supports Arabism, Islam, and the unity of Moroccan territory, including the Western Sahara.

Abdelhamid Khatir of the National Democratic Party says that his party accords particular importance to agriculture and rural development, especially with regard to young farmers. He says the party supports free trade, but with protection for the rights of small producers through taxes and insurance. His party would also provide support for local industries to help make them more competitive, especially traditional industries.

Saudi Arabia

Statement Issued on New Administrative Divisions

LD1709004493 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Out of his desire to see all statutes carry out the purpose for which they were established in serving the citizens of this dear country and in achieving the desired objectives—particularly raising the standard of services provided by government bodies in the various regions—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has ordered a revision of some articles in the statute of regions with a view to increasing services to the public in line with the goals this statute was designed to achieve. Thus, it has been decided to divide the region administratively, into Category A and Category B governorates [muhafazat] and Category A and Category B centers [marakiz].

These new divisions—which will replace the former divisions consisting of governorates, districts [nawahi], and centers—will provide more flexibility in organizing the region.

Proceeding from this and given that Article 9 of the statute stipulates that the amir of the region chairs at least two meetings a year with the governors [muhafiz] of the governorates to discuss the region's affairs; and given that Article 29 of the statute stipulates that the council of the region could seek the assistance of anyone it chooses and invite anyone it wishes to attend the council's meetings and take part in the discussion, including the governors of the governorates; and out of a desire to see the continued presence of the governors in the governorates in order to serve the citizens: It was deemed appropriate to restrict the regional council to the amir, his deputy, the commissioner [wakil] of the amir's seat of government [imarah], the heads of the government bodies involved in services, projects, and development in the region, and a number of citizens.

His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister, also declared that a royal decree would be issued in the next few days naming the members of the regional councils. This reflects the eagerness of the custodian of the two holy mosques to speed up the implementation of the regions' statute and enable the members of the regional councils to carry out their duties. [passage omitted]

Royal Decrees on New Regional Structure

LD1609220393 Riyadh SPA in English 1941 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Jeddah, Sept 16, SPA—Three royal decrees were issued here today.

In view of the death of 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Ahmad al-Rifa'i (God bless him), member of Shura (consultative) Council, a royal decree said Dr Suhayl Bin-Hasan Qadi was selected as a member of the Consultative Council, effective from today.

According to another royal decree, the Kingdom's regions and headquarters of governorates of each region will be as follows:

The name of the region	The name of the governorate's headquarter
1- Riyadh region	Riyadh City
2- Mecca region	Mecca City
3- Medina region	Medina City
4- Qasim region	Buraydah City
5- The Eastern region	Dammam City
6- 'Asir region	Abha City
7- Tabuk region	Tabuk City
8- Ha'il region	Ha'il City
9- The Northern Border region	'Ar'ar City
10- Jizan region	Jiza n City
11- Najran region	Najran City
12- Baha region	Baha City
13- al-Jawf region	Sikaka City

The third royal decree includes the following: Firstly: insert the following amendments in the regions' system issued under the royal decree no a/92 dated 27/8/1412 AH:

1- Amend the third column to be as follows: Each administrative region is comprised of a number of governorates= group-a, governorates= group-b, centers= group-a, and centers= group-b, taking into consideration demography, geography, security, environmental conditions and roads' transportation. [as received] These governorates are linked to the governor of the region and they will be organized according to royal decrees based on recommendations from the interior minister. But, the centers will be established and their links will be by a decision of the interior minister based on a proposal of the region's governor.

2- The tenth article will be amended as follows:

A- For each region, one under secretary or more will be appointed with not less than 14th grade by a decision of the cabinet based on a recommendation from the interior minister.

B- Each governorate of group a, will have a governor with not less than 14th grade. He will be appointed by an order of the prime minister based on a recommendation of the interior minister. It will have an assistant with not less than 12th grade. He will be appointed by a decision of the interior minister based on a recommendation of the region's governor.

C- Each governorate of group b will have a governor with not less than 12th grade. He will be appointed by a

decision of the interior minister based on a recommendation from the region's governor.

D- Each center of group a will have a chairman with not less than eigth grade. He will be appointed by a decision of the interior minister based on a recommendation of the region's governor.

E- Each center of group b will have a chairman with not less than fifth grade. He will be appointed by a decision of the region's governor.

3- The 13th article will be amended as follows: governors of governorates should administer their areas according to specifications mentioned in Article-7, except what is contained in columns "waove" "taa" and "yaah" [Arabic letters; SPA transliteration] of the article. They should supervise the works of the chairmen of centers and their staff. They should ascertain their efficiency in performing their duties and submit periodical reports to the governor of the region on the efficiency of their public service performance and other matters related to affairs of the governorates in line with the executive regulations for this system.

4- The 37th article will be amended as follows: The prime minister will determine, on the basis of a proposal of the interior minister, rewards for the chairman of the regions' council and its members, taking into consideration the cost of transportation and accomodation.

5- Delete the word (and posts,) and words (and directors of posts,) of the 7th article and delete words (and directors of posts,) of the 9th, 11th and 12th articles.

6- The column no. "jeem," [Arabic letter] in the 16th article will be amended as follows: "jeem," the governorate under secretary.

7- A new article with no. 41 will be added as follows: "It is not allowed to amend this system except in a manner of its issuance."

After mentioning the name of Allah, the most gracious and the most merciful, the regions' system issued under a royal decree is as follows:

The first article: The system aims at enhancing the level of administrative and developmental work in the regions of the kingdom as well as preserving security and order and ensuring rights of citizens and their freedom in the framework of the Islamic sharia.

The second article: The kingdom's regions and the headquarters of governorates of each region are organized by a royal order based on a recommendation of the interior minister.

The third article: Each administrative region is comprised of a number of governorates= group-a, governorates= group-b, centers: group-a and centers= group-b, taking into consideration demography, geography, security, environmental conditions and roads' transportation. These governorates are linked to the governor of the region and they will be organized according to royal decrees based on recommendation from the interior minister. But, the centers will be established and their links will be by decision of the interior minister based on proposal of the region's governor.

The fourth article: Each region will have a governor with a rank of a minister. He will have a vice-governor with an excellent rank, who will assist him in his duties and undertake the governor's duties in his absence. The governor and the vice-governor will be appointed and relieved from duties by a royal order based on a recommendation of the interior minister.

The fifth article: The region's governor will be responsible to the interior minister.

The sixth article: The governor and the vice-governor will take an oath before the king and before they start their duties: "I swear in the name of Allah the great, to remain sincere to my religion, to my king and to my nation, and not to reveal any secret of my nation and to preserve its interests, its regulations and to perform my duties truely, honestly, sincerely and justly.

The seventh article: Every governor of a region will administer the region in line with the public policy of the state and regulations of this system and other regulations, particularly he should:

A- Preserve security, order and stability and take the necessary measure in line with the regulations.

B- Implement a judicial order after its final shape.

C- Ensure individual rights and freedoms and not take any measure that contravene rights and freedoms except within limits of sharia and regulations.

D- Work to advance the region socially, economically and in terms of construction.

E- Work to develop public services in the region and enhance their efficiency.

F- Administer the governorates and the centers, supervise works of governors of the governorates, chairmen of the centers and ascertain their efficiencies in performing their duties.

G- Preserve the state's assets and properties and prevent trespassing against them.

E - [as received] Supervise the government bodies and their employees in the region to ensure their good performance in terms of duties with total honesty and faithfulness, taking into consideration the link of employees of the ministeries and different departments in the region with their authorities.

F- Direct contacts with ministers and heads of departments and discussed the region's matters with them aiming at enhancing the effectiveness of the performance of these departments and informing the interior minister

about it. G- Present annual reports to the interior minister on the effectiveness of the performance of the public services and other affairs in the region in the light of what has been determined by the executive regulations.

The eighth article: An annual meeting under the chairmanship of the interior minister for regions' governors will be held to discuss matters related to the regions. The interior minister will submit a report in this context to the prime minister.

The ninth article: At least, a bi-annual meeting under the chairmanship of the region's governor for governors of the governorates will be held to discuss the region's affairs. The governor will submit a report to the interior minister in this context.

The tenth article:

A- For each region, an under secretary will be appointed with not less than the 14th grade by a decision of the cabinet based on a recommendation of the interior minister.

B- Each governorate of group a, will have a governor with not less than the 14th grade by an order of the prime minister based on a recommendation of the interior minister. It will have an assistant with not less than 12th grade, appointed by a decision of the interior minister based on a recommendation of the region's governor.

C- Each governorate of group b will have a governor with not less than 12th grade by a decision of the interior minister based on a recommendation of the region's governor.

D- Each center of group a will have a chairman with not less than the 8 grade. He will be appointed by a decision of the interior minister based on a recommendation of the region's governor.

E- Each center of group b will have a chairman with not less than the 5th grade. he will be appointed by a decision of the region's governor.

The eleventh article: Governors of regions, governors of governorates and chairmen of centers should have their residences at the venues of their works and should not leave their working locations without permission from their direct superiors.

The twelfth article: Governors of governorates and chairmen of centers assume their duties in the concerned administrative zones within the authority delegated to them.

The thirteenth article: Governors of governorates should administer their areas according to specifications mentioned in Article-7, except what is contained in columns "waove" "taa" "yaah" of the article. They should supervise the works of the chairmen of centers and their staff. They should ascertain their efficiency in performing their duties and submit periodical reports to the governor of the region on the efficiency of their public service performance and other matters related to affairs of the governorates in line with the executive regulations for this system.

More on Decrees on Regional Structure

LD1709131393 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 16 Sep (SPA)—Three noble, royal decrees were issued today, Thursday, and here are the texts: [passage omitted]

Article 14: Each ministry or government department will provide services in the region. It will have a supervisor over its apparatus in the region, whose grade will be not less than grade 12. This head will be directly linked to the central body, and it is his duty to coordinate with the amir of the region in his sphere.

Article 15: A council will be created in each region called the regional council. The headquarters of this council will be located in the town where the amir of the region has his headquarters.

Article 16: The region's council will comprise: (a) the region's amir as chairman; (b) the deputy amir of the region as deputy chairman; (c) the amir's assistant; (d) the heads of the government bodies in the region which are set up in accordance with a decision by the prime minister on the recommendation of the interior minister; (e) a number of inhabitants whose should number not less than 10. These should be men of science, experience, and specialization. They will be appointed by the prime minister on the recommendation of the region's amir and with the approval of the Interior Ministry. Their term of office will be four years, and it can be renewed.

Article 17: The member of the Council must be: (a) a Saudi national by blood and upbringing; (b) well known for his pious nature and abilities; (c) aged over 30; (d) a resident of the region.

Article 18: The member may submit proposals in writing on matters within the council's sphere of competence to the chairman of the regional council; the chairman will include all proposals on the council's agenda for examination.

Article 19: A member of the Regional Council will not attend the deliberations of the council and its committees on matters in which he may have a personal interest, nor a dependent of someone with a personal interest, nor the legal guardian, carer, or trustee of someone who may have an interest therein.

Article 20: An appointed member may resign after submitting his request to the interior minister through the amir of the region. Resignations will not take effect until the prime minister gives his consent on the recommendation of the interior minister.

Article 21: Except in stipulated cases, appointed members will not be dismissed during their period of office save by the order of the prime minister on the recommendation of the interior minister.

Article 22: If a seat becomes vacant for any reason, another member will be appointed in place of the outgoing member. The appointment will be made within three months of the date in which the seat becomes vacant. The term of office of the new member will be the remaining term of the outgoing member in accordance with Section (e) of Article 16 above.

Article 23: The regional council is authorized to study everything likely to raise the level of services in the region. It is particularly authorized to do the following: (a) to define the needs of the region and to propose their inclusion in the state's development plan; (b) to define and prioritize useful projects and propose their adoption in the annual state's budget; (c) to study plans for the region's cities and villages and follow up their implementation after their approval; (d) to follow up implementation of provisions in the development plan and budget concerning the region and to liaise in that respect.

Article 24: The regional council may propose to the interior minister any action of public benefit to the citizens of the region and encourage citizens' participation in that action.

Article 25: The council is banned from examining any issue outside its competence as stipulated in this statute. Its decisions shall be null and void if it ignores this regulation, and the interior minister will issue a decision in this respect.

Article 26: The regional council will convene an ordinary session every three months at the invitation of its chairman. The chairman may call the council to an extraordinary meeting if he deems this necessary. A session includes the meeting or meetings convened in response to one invitation. The session cannot be dissolved until it has considered and debated all issues on the agenda.

Article 27: Attendance at the regional council's meetings is a professional duty of the members mentioned in Article 16, Sections (c) and (d) of this statute. They must attend in person or by proxy when they are absent from their work. Regarding the members mentioned in Section (e) of the said article, nonattendance by a member for two consecutive sessions without a legitimate excuse constitutes a cause for dismissal from the council. In this case, this member cannot be reappointed to the council within two years of his dismissal.

Article 28: Regional council meetings must be attended by at least two-thirds of its members. Its decisions are made by an absolute majority of votes. If the votes are equally divided, the chairman's vote will be decisive. Article 29: If necessary, the regional council may form ad-hoc committees to study any matter within its sphere of competence. It may also call for the help of any expert or specialist it deems fit, and it may invite whom it wants to attend the meetings of the council and take part in discussions, without the right to vote, however.

Article 30: The interior minister may summon the council to meet under his chairmanship wherever he wishes, and may chair any meeting he attends.

Article 31: The regional council will meet only at the invitation of its chairman, of his deputy, or on the instructions of the interior minister.

Article 32: The chairman of the council must send a copy of council decisions to the interior minister.

Article 33: The chairman of the regional council must inform ministries and government departments of any council decision that may interest them.

Article 34: Ministries and government departments must take into account the decisions of the regional council concerning the provisions of Section (a) and (b) of Article 23 of these regulations. If a ministry or government department deems that a decision by a regional council not be taken into account as indicated above, they must explain their reasons to the regional council, and if the regional council is not persuaded by the reasons given by the ministry or government department then it may [word indistinct] to the interior Minister to convey its views to the Council of Ministers.

Article 35: Any ministry or government department providing services in the region should inform the regional council of any projects provided for in the budget as soon as the latter is issued. They should also inform the regional council of decisions concerning it in the development plan.

Article 36: Each minister and head of department can seek the opinion of the regional council on any issue in connection with its spheres of competence in the region, and the council must express its opinion on such issues.

Article 37: On a recommendation from the interior minister, the prime minister will provide for the expenses of the chairman and members of the regional council, taking into account estimated transportation and residence costs.

Article 38: The regional council cannot be dissolved without an order from the prime minister on a recommendation from the interior minister; its new members are to be appointed within three months from the date of the dissolution. During the dissolution period, the members stipulated in Sections (e) and (d) of Article 16 of this decree, under the chairmanship of the amir of the region, will exercise the powers of the council.

Article 39: The regional council must have a secrertariat in the region's emirate which will be responsible for preparing its agenda, sending timely invitations, recording the deliberati during the sessions, counting the

votes, preparing minutes of the sessions, drafting decisions, and carrying out the necessary actions to regulate the council's sessions and record its decisions.

Article 40: The interior minister will issue the required regulations to implement this decree.

Article 41: This decree cannot be modified in any way other than by the manner in which it has been decreed.

Royal Directive to Interior Minister

LD1609205493 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] A noble royal directive has been issued to the minister of interior and here is the text:

His royal highness the Minister of Interior: Greetings. In accordance with paragraph D of Article 16 of the statute of the regions issued by royal decree A/92 dated 27/8/1412 AH concerning the government bodies in the regions whose heads are members of the councils of the regions, and after taking cognizance of what you have submitted to us in this respect, we convey to you our approval for the heads of governmental bodies in the regions belonging to the following ministries and governmental interests to be members of the councils of the regions:

The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of PTT, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Awqaf, Islamic Call and Guidance, the General Presidency of Youth Care, and the General Presidency for Girls Education.

As regards the councils of the holy regions of Mecca and Medina, the head of the branch of the Ministry of Pilgrimage in these two regions will be a member of the region's council. On the council of the Eastern Region there will be a representative of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

Do the necessary. The competent authorities have been supplied with a copy of this decree of ours for confirmation.

[Signed] The Prime Minister [King Fahd]

United Arab Emirates

President Holds Talks With Mauritania's Taya

LD1709043193 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya held talks this evening in Abu Dhabi with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates. The talks dealt with Arab and international developments and the Middle East peace process in the light of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. [passage omitted]

President Taya and his accompanying delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi at 1000 GMT this morning on their way to the People's Republic of China, where he will pay an official and friendly visit. [passage omitted]

Yemen

* Al-Bid on YSP, Unity, Democracy, Development

93AE0569A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Aug 93 p 2

[Interview with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, by Joseph Samahah in Paris; date not given]

[Text] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] is a basic partner in Yemen's experiment. The party pushed for unity and, later, was subjected to a damaging campaign. This, however, did not prevent it from achieving satisfying results in the recent elections. Joseph Samahah met Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid in Paris and interviewed him in al-Bid's capacity as secretary general of this party. The following is the text of the interview, which predated his return to "seclusion" in Aden.

[Samahah] It was assumed that the YSP would hold a general conference after the declaration of unity. That did not happen, and it is still living with the agenda from the period of "the division." When will this conference be held, and what is its likely agenda? How will that be done within the framework of the party's present circumstances, since internal differences appear to be more political and tactical than programmatic and theoretical?

[Al-Bid] The party, our party, was confined to one part of the nation. Now, it has been expanded to all of it. We have succeeded, under the aegis of the extraordinary international and Arab changes, in establishing the party's foundation blocks on Yemeni soil, even though we faced a considerable challenge not inconsistent with our basic program. In the mid-eighties, after the distressing incidents, the party went through a critical review, which expressed itself in "Conference 87." [name as published] The development of this review went in various directions, reaching its culmination in an "agenda for comprehensive economic and political reform," calling for expansion of democracy in the party's internal life and elimination of previous restrictions, such as "democratic centralism." This reduced the party to its Central Committee, and the Central Committee to a political office, and the Political Office to a secretary general.

This tradition was well-known in our party and in similar parties. We began to accept a multiplicity of views within the organization. We blessed this, going to the point of "rostrums." Since that time, the party has become a supporter of multiplicity and the peaceful

rotation of power. In our opinion, explosions occur as a result of democracy's absence. Therefore, internal liberality is the best way to relieve congestion and resolve crises. We no longer fear dissimilarity and multiple viewpoints. On the contrary, we encourage thinking out loud and listening. We feel confident, with no room for those fears that differences used to cause us in the past. It became the right of any member to speak his views without the party being committed. The decisions of the boards are the commitment. We have practiced these changes, and we have begun to develop them, eliminating the democratic centralism that was, in fact, centralism only.

That was not easy, because it contradicted the prevailing thinking. The demand for democracy was a desire, but we moved it to the realm of application, to a certain extent. Violating party unity, meaning the unity of the party's position, was no longer treason. We no longer feared multiplicity. We propose, we debate, we differ; one view wins out over another without eliminating it.

Our priorities changed at the end of the eighties; "unity on the basis of democracy" was at the head of the agenda. It was placed within our program, in the context of national movement tasks. However, we made it the "order of the day," by virtue of its being a very real challenge, in reaction to the size of the changes going on around us. On this basis, the 1989 agreements were made, culminating in the unity of 22 May 1990. After that, the party was openly located throughout Yemen, from Sa'dah to Al-Mahrah, and had considerable responsibility placed upon it. We went through a great deal in that regard. The party was targeted, and we provided martyred leaders and fighters. Some of our ministers (the minister of justice, for example) were exposed to assassination attempts. Our reaction to these successive waves was that this was the price of democracy and unity, and our cost became our credentials. We called for a look to tomorrow and for not being diverted from the main path. After the reform, our motto was: Unity, Democracy, Modernization. We knew that what we were being subjected to was aimed at making us deviate from this motto.

[Samahah] Doesn't the motto, "Unity, Democracy, Modernization," require being crystallized into a new agenda, in a new conference that would officially establish and approve these concepts?

[Al-Bid] Yes, our party is in dire need of a conference. We wanted to hold it a while ago, or even when we completed the provincial conferences at the beginning of 1992, but we were unable to crown them with a general conference. We drafted an agenda and circulated it. Our desire to hold a new conference has not lessened, but the circumstances in which we have been living have not made it easy. Everyone has moved to Sanaa, with all that entails in terms of personal and family inconvenience. We have proceeded to establish our work in the northern governorates, or to bring it out in the open. For example, we have faced difficulties even in leasing a center for the party, not to mention the attacks I referred to. Our enemies appeared suddenly; they presented a picture of us as advocates of division. Our party has never been "partitionist" or non-unionist. It has attracted as members Yemenis from all areas, and has done that since the War of Liberation.. We are a party with an Arab, nationalist base. Who thinks that we are not Yemeni nationalists? There are parties that progressed from partitionist efforts to national effort; for us, it was easy to change from nationalist work to national work. The party has faced difficulties that have prevented it from holding the conference; however, preparations are currently underway. Documents that we have prepared began to be reviewed two years ago.

[Samahah] In what direction is this review going?

[Al-Bid] First, I think that we cannot draft an interim program. It is not possible at the present time. However, we will draft an "agenda of tasks" and, then, review the new vision. I don't want to get into details about these matters, because I feel that daily life points out changes and alternatives that are difficult to contain. After today, there would be no room for the adjustments we rejected. We must move in concert with a dynamic world. Meanwhile, we must adhere to the so-called "cultural project," i.e., the new, unified, modern Yemen. This project teaches us to search for ways to structure it politically and culturally. This structure is the final guarantee for all the elections, etc., that we have been through. We call for more dialogue about these issues. We must avoid unleashing rules that restrict debate. I am concerned with defining our party's role in this process, its place within it, and its efforts on its behalf. Intellectually, I am an advocate of the flexible and open pursuit of change.

[Samahah] But what are the rules?

[Al-Bid] First, let's take the party mechanism. The principle task now is parliamentary. The party must reshape itself on this basis, concentrating its efforts on the electoral district. In the past, the starting point was the administrative realm. Today, the electoral district is the arena of party effort. Restructuring the party's role on this basis is required, in order to prepare to deal with the rank and file. That leads to the need to change the districts, giving them the authority that used to come from the center, encouraging the districts to undertake initiatives on their own. The governorates and districts must throw their weight around, so that all that remains for the center is the strategic decision. The struggle's tasks must become the responsibility of the rank and file, in accordance with their position in the governorate or district. We have been trying for that for three years, but we have not fully succeeded. Our rank and file have been used to strong centralism; the time has come to change that.

[Samahah] There is party multiplicity in Yemen. The YSP has experienced changes. It is one of the few parties that has changed and remained in power. Perhaps unity was the thing that saved it. The National Liberation

Front in Algeria ended up in the opposition, as did other parties in the world. The YSP remains in power but, in the new Yemeni context, it needs something to set it apart, something to define its personality and intellectual identity.

[Al-Bid] We are a national, democratic party. Our retreat from our past experience does not mean that we have abandoned our dreams. However, the intellectual framework of our directions does not require haste. We must adopt the Chinese maxim: "Look seven times and cut once." What concerns us today is to retain an organic connection with what is happening in Yemen and the Arab nation. What we are doing today is an attempt to use the nationalist plan. In Yemen, we used to be ready to take upon ourselves tasks that belong to others. As for the present time, we want to carry out our tasks and participate with others in whatever is mutual.

The national vision needs more dialogue. The vision on the international level also requires more dialogue and debate. I am in no hurry. Developments burst forth and, sometimes, I feel the ground on which I stand tremble. There is no way to contain the world's changes in balances, but that does not mean that we should walk into the wind. It means that we should start from the plan that we adopt in Yemen. It is a step, and this is Yemen's participation in the bigger plan. However, it is not our right to formulate this plan singlehandedly. We had our experience in the south, and our brothers had their experience in the north. There is no need for one to inflict the other, to impose his experiences on the other. Moreover, Yemen does not want to "export" its experiences. Therefore, it appears that our psychology sometimes looks to the speaker of words, not to his substance. I am preoccupied with my plan, and I feel that people have become tired of words and prefer action and results.

[Samahah] Did the YSP have a network of political relationships in the Arab world? Has it maintained them and does it share them in ruling unified Yemen?

[Al-Bid] We have nothing to prevent that but, perhaps, we have been preoccupied in organizing our own house and pursuing our circumstances. This work has been at the expense of continuing previous dialogues and relationships. We feel it is important to resume that, even with those about whom we have reservations or who have reservations about us. There is a big change in Yemen: unity after centuries of division. These are big tasks; however, I acknowledge a shortfall on our party's part in the area of foreign political relations. It is a deficiency that we are trying to overcome, because we need to exchange views and listen to criticism.

[Samahah] Yemeni unity almost became swallowed up in annexation, as happened in Germany. The two sides' needs were reasonable and both had positive and negative aspects. What continues in the unified Yemen from the positive aspects of your experience?

[Al-Bid] The consolidation spirit existed in Yemen, but the spirit of annexation existed as well. It existed in practice, not publicly. It began to affect us as a party and as Yemenis with a plan. The annexation practices affected citizens directly, causing negative results. We tried to discuss it. We were successful in that. The idea of unification was based on taking the positive aspects of the two experiences. However, unfortunately, we did not fully succeed. Apparently, health is not contagious, but disease is contagious. Some of the negative aspects have spread on the national scene, while some have been suppressed. It is the duty of all of us to emphasize the positive qualities and the need to adopt them, such as security, stability, and the authority of the state and the administration. This was abundant in the south. The state was respected and the people looked to it for decisions. We had our negative aspects as well. We tried to universalize our positive aspects, out of a kind of suspension of feelings. The citizens responded, but the perception of some brothers appeared to ignore the fact that this was a gain for us all. Democracy cannot be sound without getting rid of these issues. This is the responsibility of us all, in our party, in the "Congress," and in the Reform Party.

[Samahah] What, specifically, does the slogan "Modern Yemen" mean?

[Al-Bid] It means the sovereignty of the state and the breaking up of its institutions, since the work of traditional institutions must be done with a single set of standards, with one law over all of Yemen. With any dispute, Yemenis look to the institution of shaykhs for decisions. These shaykhs can fill a void and dispense justice. But it would be better for the state to be the authority. We can accept gradual progress in this area, on our way to building the state and developing democracy. Building democracy is a voluntary job, but building institutions requires a degree of coercion. We are undertaking two contradictory, complementary processes.

Talks With Sudanese Delegation Held 16 Sep

Bilateral Ties Discussed

JN1609160093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—An official round of talks was held here today between the interior ministries of Iraq and Sudan. The Iraqi side to the talks was chaired by Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan and the Sudanese side by Interior Minister Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn.

The talks, which were attended by a number of senior officials from both ministries and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad, discussed means to strengthen ties between the two parties, the exchange of visits and expertise, and coordination between the two ministries.

In another development, Sudanese Interior Minister Brig. Gen. 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn today laid a wreath on the Unknown Soldier Monument. The Sudanese minister and his delegation also visited the Qadiri shrine and the tombs of Imams Abu-Hanifah and Musa al-Kazim in Baghdad.

Husayn Kamil Hasan Receives Delegation

JN1609155793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep—Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and supervisor of military industrialization and oil, today received Sudan's Interior Minister Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn and his delegation, currently visiting the country.

The two sides reviewed bilateral ties, particularly in the industrial field, and means to bolster them for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman, minister of state at the Sudanese Presidency; Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization; Dr. Ja'far Diya' Ja'far, adviser at the Presidential Office; and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Oil Minister Meets With Delegation

JN1609160393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad has met with Sudanese Interior Minister Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn and Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman 'Isma'il, minister of state at the Sudanese Presidency, and their delegation.

Talks centered on technical cooperation in the field of oil industries. The oil minister stressed that Iraq is prepared to offer full support to the oil industry in Sudan and to provide advice and expertise and train workers in the Sudanese oil sector at Iraqi oil installations.

Foreign Minister Departs for Cairo Conference

JN1609200593 Baghdad INA in English 1700 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, Sept.16, INA—Foreign Minister Mr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today left Baghdad for Amman en route to Cairo to attend meetings of the Arab foreign ministers opening there tomorrow.

Mr. Sahhaf is accompanied by the foreign undersecretary and several senior officials to the three-day meetings.

Defense Minister al-Majid Attends Night Exercise

JN1609183993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Fighter Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid has attended a night, live ammunition exercise code-named Abtal al-Nida' conducted by the Mahmud Formation, command of the heroic al-Muthanna Forces, acting within the sector of al-Rashid Forces, 1st Army Corps. [passage omitted]

IDF Shoots, Kills Car Passenger in Nabulus

TA1609114993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] In Nabulus, a Palestinian was killed last night when soldiers at a roadblock opened fire on the car in which he was riding. An Army source told Qol Yisra'el the car failed to stop and tried to get away. The source said the troops fired on the car only after the driver ignored warning shots. The driver, Armad al-Kurdi, said he did not see the roadblock. The passenger, 24-year-old Wafa' Hatim Jamal al-Jara', was wounded, and the Army source said he was treated by an Army medical team, but died of his wounds. The Army source said the troops were engaged in what is called initiated action. This implies that the roadblock was not a permanent one, but was set up during the evening for security purposes such as checking identity cards. In such a case, the Palestinian driver would probably not know in advance that there was a roadblock on his route. The Army is investigating the incident.

Three Palestinians and one Israeli soldier were wounded last night in a clash in Halhul. The troops were dispersing a procession protesting against the agreement between Israel and the PLO. One of the soldiers threw a stun grenade into the crowd, slightly injuring three of the protesters. The Army is investigating the incident.

Near Ramallah north of Jerusalem, three petrol bombs were thrown last night at a passing Israeli car. No one was hurt, and there was no damage. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the driver of the vehicle fired at the attackers. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers are searching for the perpetrators.

King Comments on Impact of PLO-Israel Agreement

JN1509201293 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1922 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Interview with King Husayn of Jordan by CNN correspondent Siobhan Darrow in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Darrow] We have seen an enormous breakthrough this week between Israel and the PLO, but the accords have not dealt with some of the thorniest issues, that of the future of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, and, of course, Palestinians in diaspora. Could the complexity of these issues cause the momentum for peace to falter?

[Husayn] I certainly hope not and I believe that the breakthrough has been a tremendous one, and one of promise. And it is my hope that everyone will approach their responsibilities towards future generations in a spirit that will enable them to overcome all obstacles and difficulties.

[Darrow] On Tuesday you spoke to Syrian President al-Asad by phone. Any hint there of moving on that track?

[Husayn] There is a determination, I believe, by our Syrian brethren to continue as well to see what can be achieved. They have their own agenda. They have their own problems that they would like to resolve, and I hope that it will be possible to do so before too long. What we are searching for is a comprehensive peace in this entire region.

[Darrow] How would the existence of a Palestinian entity, possibly a Palestinian state, affect Jordan, not just demographically, but psychologically, given the enormous Palestinian population here in Jordan?

[Husayn] In Jordan, the people of this country are members of one family with the same rights, and regardless of their origins, until such time as we figure out later on if any would choose otherwise or if any would have any other ideas regarding their future. But until then, we are one people and we'll continue to be. And, incidentally the question of return or compensation is one that has to be addressed, obviously, in the coming period. But, whether it is a Palestinian who has become a part of this country over the years, or a Palestinian anywhere else in the world, that does not affect his rights regarding the option of return or compensation.

[Darrow] What exactly in terms of compensation are you asking for from the Israelis?

[Husayn] I am not asking for anything. This will have to be worked out, and it is at two levels. The level of people regarding the properties and their rights there, if they choose to exercise these rights. And on the other hand, I believe that we were right to have accepted and pushed for the multilateral talks earlier on. There wasn't very much appreciation of that in our region, possibly at the time. But we wanted to see what could be done at the level of the world and all concerned, within the region on a broader scale, than is there regarding the bilateral talks, to do whatever can be done to bring a qualitative change in this region as far as people are concerned in a new era of peace.

[Darrow] What exactly do you see emerging? Do you see a Palestinian state in confederation with Jordan? There's also been talk of a possible Israeli-Palestinian confederation? How do you see this emerging?

[Husayn] I honestly can't tell at this point in time. But for Jordan to contemplate a confederation with Palestine, for example, there'll have to be a Palestine there and there'll have to be the opportunity for the people on both sides in such an eventuality to exercise their right to choose whether they would like to have a federation, a confederation, or any other system or link between them both. This will have to come at a time when Palestinians are able to speak for themselves freely and make a choice, and Jordanians equally. But I believe that the ties are very, very strong and very, very close, and (?I hope they remain) so in the future.

[Darrow] With the split in Palestinian ranks, both here in Jordan and across the river in the occupied territories, how do you see the possibility of strife and instability affecting Jordan and affecting the democratic reforms you are working to implement here?

[Husayn] Well, recent developments have, obviously, pressed on us some responsibilities towards this coming period and, to begin with, I thought it imperative that I call upon all our Palestinian brethren to stay together at this stage and to warn against the fracture of the Palestinian fabric. And, I hope that this will be taken as it is meant, advice at a crucial time and for the interest of Palestinians to be safeguarded.

As for Jordan and our democratic reforms, well, obviously we were contemplating, and we still are contemplating, elections in November. But, these recent developments obviously have caused us to have a lot of food for thought as to exactly what we should do. I believe we will continue with the elections. And, my feeling's that we will, should, leave to people to decide whether they want to run for these elections or exercise their right to vote amongst our people from Palestinian origin or who of them would choose otherwise. In terms of the track that we have adopted, it will continue to be one of democracy and more democracy, more power- sharing, and one of pluralism and respect for human rights. This is our choice and this is our way. It'll always be there. And, besides, I hope this will give us all the opportunity to come closer together here and make of this country an example to others.

[Darrow] Can you give us some sort of timeframe when other Arab nations might recognize Israel?

[Husayn] Well, I suppose recognition of Israel was there with Security Council Resolution 242 and our acceptance of it. But for a total organization of relations, this will have to happen when we have peace, when we have concluded our negotiations and arrived at a solution to

this problem. And I hope that what we are talking about is a comprehensive peace in the region (?within) all the parties concerned.

You referred to Jerusalem, Jerusalem is a very important issue for all Muslims and Christians alike. And, I certainly have always had the view that something has to be done to ensure that the rights of followers of the three great monotheistic religions are recognized and are recognized fully in Jerusalem and the holy land.

[Darrow] You and Yasir 'Arafat have had, certainly, a tumultuous relationship in the past, to say the least. How did the fact that 'Arafat didn't consult Jordan in this major step—how can this possibly affect your future relationship.

[Husayn] Since 1974 at the Rabat summit it was made clear to us, as it was made clear to the Arab world by us, that we accepted that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. That was a cutout as far as we were concerned. And so our position has been constant ever since: Support for Palestinians to have their say regarding their future, regarding their rights on their national soil. And, nothing has changed in that respect. I am [word indistinct] have been taken aback by the fact that although we provided the umbrella for the joint delegation to enable the Palestinians to exercise their rights of speaking for themselves in the peace negotiations, that we did not have a full picture of what was happening. But we are not the only people surprised. I think there were others, Palestinians, as well as others within the region and the world. So, maybe that was for the best, anyway.

[Darrow] What do you see—with the signing now of an Israeli-Jordanian agenda to move ahead on talks—what do you see was the toughest question to resolve?

[Husayn] There are many problems that [are] yet to be addressed, and I don't think that I could categorize any of them as being more difficult than the other. We have obvious problems regarding the human dimension of the equation, in terms of the fact that Jordan has been the country that has absorbed all the results of all the setbacks that the Arabs suffered, and the Palestinians in particular, over the many years that have passed. So, there is that dimension, and there are other issues that affect us in terms of proximity and rights in formulating the kind of peace that all of us had been seeking over a very long period of time, a just peace, an honorable peace, a present for future generations, for the children of Abraham to live together and enjoy peace in the kind of world that was denied them for so long.

[Darrow] Given the fact that Jordan has been the recipient of much of the repercussions of the turmoil in the region, how do you see Jordan's role now in moving the peace process along?

[Husayn] It will continue to support the Palestinians as best as it can. We will have to restructure our negotiations, in a sense that Jordan will deal with its own problems directly with the Israelis for the agenda that was ratified yesterday. And, we will also have to take another look at how we deal with the matters that affect Palestinians and Israelis. So, there will be a new structure of negotiations without Palestinian brethren, and, as well, in a free way, an approach to the problem with regard to Palestinians, and Israelis, and Jordanians.

[Darrow] How you contend with the dissension here in Jordan among the Palestinians about the process moving along as it has?

[Husayn] As far as we are concerned, the Palestinian [as heard] Liberation Organization is the sole, legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. This hasn't changed, this will not change. So, we will continue to do business with them.

[Darrow] What about the discontent in the Palestinian refugee camps here in Jordan?

[Husayn] I hope that this will, in time, subside as people's see, hopefully, positive results of these recent moves. But, in any event, people are free to express themselves. I hope that our role [will] always be that, where we can tolerate each other in terms of differing views and opinions, within the context of respecting others as well, and the importance of keeping this country together.

[Darrow] Now that the peace process is moving along, how do you see your relationship with the Gulf states? Do you see it improving? Do you see financial aid coming your way?

[Husayn] I have never wished these relations with the Gulf states, or any other state in the region, to be anything but perfect, and we will be more than happy to see them return to the one that they have before, and to have them firmly established again.

[Darrow] One final question. What went through your mind when you saw images of Yasir 'Arafat, at the White House, honored guest, shaking hands with sworn enemies?

[Husayn] [Words indistinct] that will go down in history I suppose, and the opening of doors for the beginnings of a real peace to come to exist in this region after so long—a period of hoping and praying that the time will come when you could move towards the establishment of a just and durable peace.

[Darrow] Your majesty, thank you for being with us today.

We've been speaking with Jordan's King Husayn. I am Siobhan Darrow in Amman.

King on PLO-Israel Accord, Future Prospects

JN1609201993 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1915 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Interview with Jordan's King Husayn in Amman, by an unidentified reporter of "French television station FR3" via satellite; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Your majesty: When you watched the ceremony for the signing of the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO, what was your reaction? Were you happy? Were you joyful at seeing this agreement being signed? Or were you sad that you weren't in Washington?

[Husayn] No, I wasn't sad that I wasn't in Washington. I believe that the parties involved in bringing this historic agreement together needed to be in the limelight and I am very happy that they were. So, my feelings were ones of realizing that a historic moment was being watched by the world. With the handshakes there, a lot of barriers have been brought down, and hopefully the beginnings of a process leading to a comprehensive peace in this region.

[Reporter] Your majesty: Next Tuesday, I think, you will be meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. What are you going to be speaking about with him?

[Husayn] Oh, there is very much to speak about. We will, obviously, have to look at what has happened and examine it and examine exactly how the future will enable us to do whatever we can, on the one hand, to support the independent Palestinian position, yet at the same time work together to achieve our objectives in terms of the negotiations and to prepare the mechanism that is required in view of what has happened to cope with all matters of mutual interest.

[Reporter] Your majesty: In your opinion, what are the main fundamental problems that have to be resolved before we can have a lasting peace in the Middle East?

[Husayn] I believe that the major problem is the challenge ahead, that people might have the impression that everything can be worked out in a very short space of time. Well, I believe that it is going to take a while to achieve progress. We need the help of the world, we need the help of the region to address the human dimension of the problem, in terms of people who have suffered for so long and been expelled from their lands. We need to do whatever we can, also, to ensure that a satisfactory solution is found for Jerusalem, which is important to all followers of the three great monotheistic religions.

And, so, we are working in the bilateral, in the trilateral, in the multilateral dimensions. We were the first, as you know, to accept to go to the multilaterals because we believe that it was very, very important to prepare for the opportunity and the chance and the possibility of peace to bring about the necessary change, the qualitative change in the lives of individuals and peoples in this entire region in the context of peace.

[Reporter] Your majesty: In your heart of hearts, do you think that Yasir 'Arafat has signed a good agreement with Israel? Because many people think that, in fact, he gave up more than he actually got?

[Husayn] This is not for me to comment on. It's a subject that will be discussed by generations to come. I hope that he will have the good judgment of people in the future of what he has felt that he should do, and what he has done.

[Reporter] Your majesty: Do you feel that the Palestinian radicals in Syria, the fundamentalists in (?southern Al-Biqa') [word indistinct] to Hizballah, and even the fundamentalists in your country, do you think that these people still represent a serious threat to the peace process?

[Husayn] I think the threat is there on either side of the divide, to the process, of people who do not believe that peace can be achieved. Let's hope that they are proven wrong, and that progress and serious work will produce the results that are desired and provide for the whole people in this region an era of peace that has been denied them for so long.

[Reporter] And you, your majesty, when are you going to sign a true peace agreement with Israel? Do you have an idea on when that could be done?

[Husayn] I don't have any idea, or specific timeframe. But, we have begun by ratifying an agenda of the subjects that have to be discussed, and the problems that have to be resolved. We are very hopeful that soon we will see other parties to the conflict also involved on the Arab side, namely Syria and Lebanon, and that at the end of the day, we will have a comprehensive peace that we have sought for many, many years, and that is our objective.

[Reporter] You were just mentioning Syria, your majesty. Do you feel that the president of Syria, Hafiz al-Asad, really wants to sign an agreement with Israel? And, also, do you think that he is going to get that agreement at a price that is too dear. This is what many people think in the West. Many people also think [words indistinct] this can have for the oil monarchies in the Gulf?

[Husayn] Well, I can only say that what I know is that all parties immediately concerned are seeking to find a solution that future generations can live with, protect, and accept, and enjoy to the benefit of all in the region and beyond. That includes our Syrian brother as well.

[Reporter] You obviously are familiar with the president of Syria, and both of you were not really pleased, at the beginning, to see the Palestinians and the Israelis negotiating on a secret basis. But now it seems that you are going to jump on the bandwagon?

[Husayn] No, there is no bandwagon to jump upon. We have, as you are aware, held up ratifying our agenda on the Jordanian-Israeli track for the Palestinians to make some progress; they have made it. Obviously, we were taken aback by the fact that this was done without our knowledge in terms of all the negotiations leading up the agreement. But, then, we found that many Palestinians

did not know and many others in the world did not know. In any event, maybe we had some feelings initially which were just justified because we had provided an umbrella and we were meant to be working very closely together, up to that point. But, going back to the original objective, it was always to enable the Palestinians to speak for themselves regarding their case and their cause on their legitimate soil. And this is what we achieved, I believe, and enabled the Palestinians to move, and for the ceremony you began your interview by asking me about in Washington to take place and for the handshakes to be seen by the world as a whole.

[Reporter] Well, if I may, your majesty, I would like to go back to the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad. Do you think that he can really make a genuine contribution towards peace by providing guarantees that the Palestinian radicals in Syria, as well as Hizballah radicals in southern Lebanon, will no longer pose a threat to Israel? Do you think he is a position to guarantee that?

[Husayn] And do you think that Prime Minister Rabin is in a position to guarantee that there is no opposition to the peace process in Israel?

[Reporter] Well, I am not his spokesperson.

[Husayn] Well, then neither am I Hafiz al-Asad's spokesman.

[Reporter] Well, let's go to the United States and the European Community. They are going to be providing sizable financial backing to this. Do you think that this is going to lead to any real changes in the area? Do you think that by boosting the economy there will be possibility of staving off the threat posed by all those fundamentalist groups?

[Husayn] Of course, with the progress and resolving the problem in terms of people's rights, there has to be a genuine effort to address the problems that people have carried with them over so many years. There has to be a qualitative change in terms of life in this entire region. This affects, obviously, the Palestinian dimension, as it affects us and others. We in Jordan, for example, had been carrying the baggage of history in terms of all the disasters that have befallen the Palestinian people and Arab people throughout the recent years. And there are many in this country who now are looking at the possibilities of the future and these may be. So, I hope that with Europe and the rest of the world we can see and achieve progress to address the human dimension as well and the needs and requirements—individual and collective.

[Reporter] Your majesty: We could say that perhaps some real solution might be the creation of a true commonwealth for this region?

[Husayn] I think the possibilities are enormous in the future, sir. Once peace is established and it is what people can accept and the possibilities are infinite in terms of the chances that are offered all concerned—the children of Abraham in this entire region.

[Reporter] What's going to happen to the Palestinians that live in your country—there are many of them. Do you think some of them will go back to the occupied territories which will then be given back by Israel to the Palestinians?

[Husayn] I have no idea and this is one of the dimensions that we have to look at. Until now, they have been members of the Jordanian family without jeopardizing their rights in terms of return or compensation when a solution will be found. Now that we have begun, we have to look at that again and see exactly what will happen.

[Reporter] Your majesty: Do you think a Palestinian state is going to be on the Israeli border 10 years from now? Do you think that this is a real possibility?

[Husayn] I think the chance is there, and I hope that it will come, if that is what the people of Palestine wish. And I believe that they do wish to have their say and their flag on their national soil.

[Reporter] Yesterday you spoke with President Clinton on the phone. He promised you $50 million in aid. Do you get the impression that today the U.S. Administration is going to try to influence the peace process, at the same time without seeking control, or do you think that there is a bit of desire to have control over what is going on on the part of Washington?

[Husayn] We [word indistinct] that Washington will obviously play an important role that it is qualified to play in bringing about a just and honorable peace in this region. I had a conversation with President Clinton yesterday and I had one a few days ago as well and we are [word indistinct] in touch, but we don't know exactly what will happen in the future.

[Reporter] Your majesty: What could you say to the French people who feel like they have been sidelined; they haven't been really part of what's going on in the Middle East. If fact, our foreign minister just (?recognized) that just a few weeks ago.

[Husayn] Well, sir, I can only say if that's the way some of you feel, then you might understand how I felt when all this news broke out, and I am sure many in the world felt the same way. But after all, our interest and concern has been for the establishment of a just, comprehensive and durable peace and for the Palestinians to have their independent say and make their contribution towards a solution that will affect not only this region but vast areas beyond. And I really hope that all of us can look into the future with hope. And, as for our wishes, I believe that we are seeing them being fulfilled with the beginnings. And there is much for us all to do to complete the road and arrive at our target.

[Reporter] I know, your majesty, sometimes it is very difficult to be a soothsayer, but do you think that a comprehensive peace agreement could be signed with, let us say, by the end of the year, or later?

[Husayn] I don't know. Anything is possible in this world, as we have seen. But, I think it will take a bit of time.

[Reporter] Your majesty: You've seen many things in your lifetime. Are you optimistic after the signing of this agreement? Do you think that the peace process is on the right track? We've spoken already of some of the obstacles. But, what is your heartfelt feelings on this, since you are so familiar with the region and all of the issues?

[Husayn] I believe, sir, that the opportunities that were lost were many. But, this is one that ought to be taken by all very, very seriously, and particularly the fact that the Palestinians and the Israelis have come together and worked out the beginnings of a solution to their problem. So, I am optimisitc and hopeful, and I hope that all of you share with me this optimism.

[Reporter] This is the last question. Recently, you spoke to Hafiz al-Asad and to President Clinton who, he himself, has spoken to President Hafiz al-Asad. Are you in the process of cooking up something that's going to go in the right direction?

[Husayn] No, with regard to President al-Asad we are just talking from time to time to coordinate and exchange views, and we are old friends in this region. With President Clinton, I have the highest respect and esteem for him, and I know of his determination to do whatever he can to help, and I am sure it is in the context that he has been in touch with me and with others in the region.

[Reporter] Your majesty, would you like to send out a message, a special message to all of those that have a role to play in this peaceful process in the future?

[Husayn] The hopes for successes to come and the completion of the road. We have always been committed to the cause of a just and durable peace. Let's hope and pray that we will see it in our times, or that our children and their children, and generations to come will enjoy it within this region as a whole. I believe that very courageous steps have been taken, and we will have to do everything we can to help, and to the president, government, and people of France I would like to say that we value very highly the friendship that has grown between us, based on mutual respect, and desire to cooperate over so many, many years, and the trust that is so treasured by us all in terms of these relations. And, I hope that we will work together to do whatever we can for a better future for this region and for the world.

[Reporter] Your majesty, once again I would like to thank you. Good luck for the future progress of this process. Thank you once again for having taken the time [words indistinct] of your busy schedule to speak with us.

[Husayn] My pleasure. Thank you so much. Thank you for the opportunity.

UK's Hurd Greets al-Majali on Agenda Accord

JN1609180793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has received a letter of congratulation from British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd on the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement.

Mr. Hurd's letter viewed the agreement as an important step toward broadening the horizons for Middle East peace. He hoped it will lead to a comprehensive peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. Mr. Hurd said he hoped the prime minister will maintain contacts with him as the peace process makes more progress. The British foreign secretary expressed his pleasure at his meeting last week with His Majesty King Husayn in London. He commended Jordan's positive and constructive role since the peace progress began in Madrid, which he said helped lay the groundwork for recent historic developments in the peace process.

Al-Majali Hails 'Arafat on Joint Declaration

JN1609161393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Sep 93

["Text" of letter from Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; date not given]

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat of the state of Palestine—Tunis: On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, I extend heartfelt congratulations on the signing of the joint declaration of principles for the interim period and the recognition of the Palestinian leadership.

These are moments of change that carry far-reaching and long-term implications for the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. This accomplishment, made possible thanks to your personal, tireless, and sustained efforts, paves the way for the attainment of the legitimate goals of the Palestiniain people.

Jordan has always made every effort on all fronts to enable the Palestinian people to achieve self-determination and their historic rights on their national soil in Palestine. You must recall how Jordan has, since 1948, sought to safeguard the Palestinian identity within the framework of unity, and consented to the 1974 Rabat summit resolutions and to the 1988 disengagement. You must also recall that Jordan provided an umbrella to enable the Palestinian people to put their case to the 1991 peace conference.

From the outset, His Majesty King Husayn directed that the Palestinians must enjoy independent decisionmaking. When we concluded an agenda with the Israelis, our declared position was to put off its publication and pause until clear progress was made on the Arab, particulary Palestinian, tracks. In that regard, we had no ulterior motives; our position is that the Arab-Israeli conflict

cannot be defused until a dignified solution is found to the Palestinian cause—the heart of the conflict.

These are historic moments that put the Palestinian people on the road to independence and freedom from occupation. Jordan lends its wholehearted support to the independenet Palestinian decision.

As always, we will be available to give every support the brothers may request.

May God grant you success.

[signed] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali

Government Said To Ban Protests Against Agenda

NC1609185493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Dispatch from Beirut by Mohammad Keshbar, correspondent from Iranian radio and television]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: The Islamic movement in Jordan has announced its opposition to the signing in Washington of the agenda of the upcoming negotiations between Jordan and the Zionist enemy. [passage omitted]

Islamic sources in Jordan have reported that the Jordanian Government has banned rallies, marches, and sitins the Islamic movements opposed to the Jordanian-Zionist agreement had planned to stage. The sources said that the government is imposing a media blackout on the Islamic opposition to the agreement. [passage omitted]

In Lebanon, Hizballah has announced its condemnation of the Jordanian-Zionist agreement. [passage omitted]

For its part, the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has condemned the Jordanian-Zionist agreement, labelling it treason because it recognizes the legitimacy of the Israeli entity's existence.

Palestinian Residents Ordered To Register

JN1609105093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Sep 93 pp 1, 17

[Text] Amman—The Public Security Department requests all Palestinians holding all types of travel documents and who reside in Jordan without a temporary or permanent residency permit, and those who have a temporary or permanent residency permit but have not renewed it, to report to the Residence and Border Directorate for purposes of registration and organization as of Saturday, 1 October 1993.

In another development, the Recruitment and General Mobilization Department has called on all those who were born in 1976 to report to the recruitment and general mobilization bureaus in the governorates and districts to which they belong between 1 October and 31 December 1993 for counting and verification purposes. The call includes those born in 1976, those who were released after serving in the Jordanian Armed Forces, and students born between 1958 and 1976 who left or were suspended from school and did not report to the recruitment and general mobilization branches and bureaus in order to determine their status.

With the approval of the Ministry of Eduction, the call excludes regular students of the current 1993/1994 academic year. These students will be counted and registered while pursuing their studies. The call also excludes those recruited into the Armed Forces, Public Security, and Civil Defense before 1 October 1993.

Those who report after 31 December 1993 will be in contravention of the call to report to the counting and verification committees, and will be liable to penalties stipulated in the compulsory military service law.

8 Fundamentalists Plead Innocent in Bid To Kill King

NC1709084893 Paris AFP in English 1241 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Amman, Sept 16 (AFP)—Eight Muslim fundamentalists accused of involvement in a plot to assassinate King Husayn of Jordan pleaded not guilty during a court appearance on Thursday.

Ten members of the outlawed Islamic Liberation Party, including army cadets, an officer in the royal guard and a Muslim cleric are accusing of conspiring to kill the Jordanian monarch.

Two party leaders are on the run and are being tried in absentia.

The men are accused of plotting to kill the king, seeking to change the constitution and membership in an illegal group.

Six are cadets aged around 20 from the Mu'tah military academy, where the monarch was to have been killed at a graduation ceremony in June.

The Islamic Liberation Party was founded in Jerusalem in 1953. It has been responsible for three attempts to overthrow the government.

King Husayn said last month that he was "very shocked" when he heard of the plot but "not surprised because there have been frequent attacks" on him during his 41-year reign.

Defense in Mu'tah Trial Queries Court's Jurisdiction

JN1609075893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16-17 Sep 93 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Marka—The public trial of 10 men accused of plotting to assassinate His Majesty King Husayn resumed

at the State Security Court Wednesday with defence lawyers requesting the unconditional release of the defendants, citing "illegal methods" used by the security authorities to detain and interrogate the suspects.

In addition to charges of conspiring to kill the King and replacing the regime with an Islamic caliphate state, the 10 suspects, two of whom are being tried in absentia, are charged with belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP) Hizb al-Tahrir al-Islami), and trying to "change the Constitution through illegal and violent means."

The prosecution charged that five of the suspects—students at Mu'tah University, a military academy 130 kilometres south of Amman—were recruited by the ILP to kill the Monarch at a graduation ceremony on June 26. The alleged plot was discovered in April, and more than 30 people were detained at the General Intelligence Department (GID), but most of them were released in August.

The ILP has categorically denied any involvement in the alleged plot, and two of its senior members are still detained but are not being tried in this or any other case.

Speaking on behalf of seven of the defendants, lawyer Salih 'Armuti described the charges as "null and void," and requested that the suspects be "immediately released from custody."

Reading from a seven-page presentation, Mr. 'Armuti told the court that the GID was not the authorised body to issue and carry out the arrests, detentions and interrogations of the suspects.

The lawyer insisted that the charges against his clients were "null" because the confessions and testimonies of the defendants were taken under "extreme forms of physical and psychological torture" during their detention at the GID.

At the opening of the trial last Thursday, Colonel Hafiz Amin, the judge presiding over the three-man military tribunal, approved a defence request to appoint a doctor and psychiatrist to conduct medical check ups on the defendants and report any signs of torture, and asked lawyers to submit individual requests for each defendants.

Mr. 'Armuti told the Jordan Times after the session adjourned Wednesday that individual requests were made on behalf of some of the defendants last Sunday, but was awaiting the court's approval to send the doctors to visit the prisoners. He said the defence requested that a civilian doctor be appointed for the purpose.

In the crowded courtroom, Mr. 'Armuti also insisted that the trial of this case was not under the constitutional jurisdiction of the State Security Court, saying that this court fell under the authority of the executive branch rather than the judicial.

He referred to the Kingdom's constitution, which separates the three independent branches—the executive, legislative and judicial.

The defence had refused to enter the defendants' guilty or not guilty pleas until the lawyers presented their objections to the court against continuing the trial.

Prosecutor Major Muhannad Hijazi presents his presentation Thursday before the court decides whether to accept or reject the defence objections. if the court overrules the objections, the defendants will enter their pleas before evidence is heard.

Speaking on behalf of one of the defendants, who was a member of the Royal Escort unit, attorney 'Umar Damra read out a 10-page presentation repeating Mr. 'Armuti's arguments. But he stressed on the issue of alleged torture his client underwent during his detention at the GID.

Although Col. Amin tried to cut off Mr. Damra, asking him to present his objections during the course of the trial, the judge decided to hear his 20-minute presentation upon the lawyer's insistence.

"My client was forced to confess to a crime he did not commit," Mr Damra contended. "Therefore, his confession is null and void because it was forced on him."

Mr. Damra referred to legal and Islamic Sharia texts on violations of human rights, as well as speeches made by King Husayn regarding the protection of human rights and individual freedoms.

At the end of the hour-and-a half session, the defendants were escorted out of the court room. But, unlike the first day, their hands were not cuffed until they were taken outside to the security van which took them back to detention.

Al-Hirawi Sees 'Dangerous Juncture' in Next 3 Months

NC1609171193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has called on the Lebanese to prepare themselves for upcoming developments. He stressed that Lebanon will be at a dangerous juncture in the next three months. Speaking to a delegation from the town of Rishmayya, President al-Hirawi said that the state will not rest until every refugee has returned to his house and land. He said he has agreed with Refugees Affairs Minister Walid Junblatt to prepare a new timetable for the return of the refugees to new villages to activate the economic and social life.

Hizballah Source: 'Only Natural' for Government To Go

NC1609124793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Reactions continue to the al-Ghubayri incident [in which the Army fired at and killed several demonstrators]. In a statement to our radio, a Hizballah parliamentary source blamed the head of government and the government for the sedition between the Army and the people. He asked why the government, which has a background of revenge and malice, doesn't go. He also wondered if it will be given the opportunity to commit other massacres.

The source stressed that Hizballah will not stop with events like those in the Chamber of Deputies recently or at the funeral for the victims, but will pursue its march until the government resigns and a new government concerned about protecting the citizens and preserving their freedom is formed.

The source noted: Some people in the government were disaffected by every Islamic-Christian dialogue and by every meeting between us and Christian sect leaders. So, it is only natural for the government to go.

Al-Hariri, Syria's al-Zu'bi Lead Committee Meeting

Speeches, Minutes Reported

JN1609175093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Beirut, 16 Sep (SANA)—Cochaired by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Lebanon's Rafiq al-Hariri, meetings of the Followup and Coordination Committee emanating from the Syria-Lebanon Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty concluded at 1230 today. The sessions were attended by Syrian and Lebanese delegates and Nasri al-Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi delivered the following speech:

Your Excellency Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Lebanese ministers and brothers: At the conclusion of our talks, held in a fraternal atmosphere permeated by affection and amity, I would like to stress that the talks produced, among other positive things, the agreement we have signed. The agreement underscores our determination to find the formulas that would ensure the achievement of all that we aspire to in all fields. The agreement also underlines the good efforts made by the officials of both countries for progress in embodying the objectives of the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty.

Our meetings and talks have shown our mutual determination and concern to provide the most efficient means to arrive at the best forms of cooperation in the political, economic, social, commercial, and other fields. It is natural for us to consider expanding effective economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries a natural thing necessitated by the developing bilateral relations. It is also a natural thing within the context of serious activity to mobilize the energies and capabilities of the two countries in the areas that serve their mutual interests. This is why our talks in Beirut are important and complement all other meetings that aim at expanding prospects for political, economic, social and commercial cooperation. This agreement is part of the fruits of our brotherly march of cooperation. The joint action we have started in each field promises benefits and strength for both countries. Also, the understanding shown in the identical ideas and views toward various issues has confirmed to us the effectiveness of our meeting, our coordination and unification of the stands of the two fraternal countries, and our adopting policies stemming from our national objectives and mutual interests. We believe it is important to follow up on our agreement in a serious, responsible manner.

There should be more meetings between ministers, directors, and other officials in Beirut and Damascus, because these meetings, contacts, and the direct, practical approach adopted during them contribute to resolving emergency questions in all fields. The one people in Syria and Lebanon are together awaiting the fruitful results of the march of cooperation. They expect the results always to be up to the level of the deep brotherly ties between Syria and Lebanon.

I thank His Excellency Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and all the brother Lebanese officials for their hospitality. I beseech God Almighty to grant us success in the interest of Syria and Lebanon.

On behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic, I invite my brother His Excellency Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to visit Damascus.

Once again, I thank the fraternal Lebanese people and the brother officials, wishing all of us success.

Rafiq al-Hariri also delivered a speech, in which he again welcomed Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation.

He added that the Lebanese are glad because the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty signed two years and four months ago is now being implemented. This will serve and benefit both countries in all fields, especially economic facilities between the two brotherly countries.

He added: The agreements signed today between the two countries will reflect positively on the peoples in Syria and Lebanon.

Al-Hariri also urged intensifying contacts between officials of the two countries at all levels.

Four agreements were signed in today's session:

1. An agreement organizing the movement of persons and goods between the two countries, signed by Syrian Transportation Minister Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim and 'Umar Misqawi, minister of state for transport affairs;

2. An agreement on various aspects of cooperation in the agricultural field, signed by Syrian Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform As'ad Mustafa and Lebanese Agriculture Minister Dr. 'Adil Qirtas;

3. An agreement on health signed by Syrian Health Minister Dr. 'Iyad al-Shatti and Lebanese Health Minister Marwan Hamadah;

4. An agreement on economic and social cooperation and coordination between the two countries, signed by Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi and Lebanese Economy and Trade Minister Hagop Demerdjian.

Later, Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri signed the minutes of the first session of the Syrian-Lebanese Followup and Coordination Committee held in Beirut between 15 and 16 September. Following is the text:

Proceeding from the brotherly ties and historic links between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Lebanon;

In confirmation of the special natural relations between the two fraternal countries, expressed in the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty signed in Damascus on 22 May 1991;

In implementation of instructions by the wise and courageous leadership of Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic;

In expression of the sure desire of Lebanon—president, government, Chamber of Deputies, and people;

And in response to an invitation by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, led a Syrian delegation on an official visit to the Republic of Lebanon during the period 15 to 16 September 1993.

The Syrian prime minister was received by His Excellency Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, to whom he conveyed greetings and amity from Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, stressing Syria's constant concern for bolstering the march of national reconciliation in Lebanon and strengthening the ties of cooperation and coordination, as agreed by the will of the one people in the two countries through the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination treaty they both signed. His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi welcomed Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation, wishing them a good stay in Lebanon. He asked him to convey his greetings and amity to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi also visited His Excellency Nabih Birri, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and discussed with him issues of concern to the two fraternal countries.

During the visit, the Syrian-Lebanese Follow-up and Coordination Committee met in its first session at the Government House in Beirut during the period 15 to 16 September. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi headed the Syrian side and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri headed the Lebanese side. The secretary general of the Syrian-Lebanese Higher Council attended. Attached is a list of members of the two accompanying delegations.

Having reviewed bilateral relations and cooperation in the financial, economic, social, agricultural, transportation, communications, irrigation, and electricity fields, and having discussed topics raised in all these fields, the committee decided the following:

First: In the field of foreign policy:

It has been affirmed that Syria and Lebanon, the two fraternal Arab countries, will continue to support and back each other in connection with all issues pertaining to their security and national interests and supreme Arab interests.

Proceeding from their faith in the unity of their fate and in the requirements of defending their joint interests, they will continue to coordinate their political stands on Arab, regional, and international levels. They stressed the importance of bilateral consultations and cooperation and enhancing bilateral contacts on all issues of interest to the two fraternal countries.

They stressed the importance of continuing consultations with other Arab parties with respect to the peace process in order to arrive at a just, comprehensive Middle East peace based on the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 in accordance with the bases and rules of the Madrid peace conference.

Second: In the field of economic cooperation:

In implementation of the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty, which provides for concluding special agreements between the two countries as an

appendix to the treaty in the fields covered by the treaty, and having been acquainted with the results of the studies and research papers conducted by specialized ministerial committees in various fields of bilateral cooperation and the draft agreements prepared by the committees in this respect, the committee decided the following:

—Adopting and signing the following agreements:

A. An agreement on economic and social cooperation and coordination;
B. An agreement organizing the movement of persons and goods;
C. A health agreement;
D. An agreement on agricultural cooperation and coordination.

The Lebanese side welcomed the Syrian side's agreement to cancel the import license required for industrial commodities of Lebanese origin imported by Syria. The import license will be replaced by statistical forms. The certificate of origin will be adopted in accordance with the agreement on facilitating and increasing trade between Arab countries.

Third: Endorsement of the joint committees' minutes:

—The following minutes and programs, signed by concerned quarters in the two countries, are approved:

A. The minutes of the meeting of the interior committee signed on 14 January 1992;
B. The minutes of the meeting of the interior committee signed on 27 April 1993;
C. An anti-narcotics cooperation agreement signed on 27 April 1993;
D. The minutes of the meeting of the telecommunications committee signed on 28 February 1993;
E. The minutes of the meeting of the joint agricultural committee signed on 8 April 1993;
F. The minutes of the meeting of the joint customs committee signed on 28 April 1993;
G. The minutes of the meeting of the transportation committee signed on 21 June 1993;
H. The executive program of the tourism cooperation agreement signed on 25 April 1993.

The committee voiced satisfaction over the enforcement of the defense and security agreement signed between the two countries on 1 september 1991.

Fourth: Cooperation in the electricity field:

The minister of electricity and water resources in the Republic of Lebanon and the ministers of electricity, and oil and mineral resources in the SAR will prepare a preliminary study to establish a joint power plant that operates on Syrian gas and fuel for the distribution of power in the two countries. This study should be completed two months from this date and will be submitted to the Followup and Coordination Committee for adoption.

Fifth: Cooperation in the water field:

The minister of electricity and water resources in the Republic of Lebanon and the minister of irrigation in the SAR will prepare a comprehensive file on joint water resources between the two countries and the appropriate recommendations for the optimal exploitation of water resources through the establishment of joint ventures, such as the establishment of a joint dam on al-'Asi river. The file on the subject as well as the recommendations should be completed during a period not to exceed three months from this date, after which it will be submitted to the Followup and Coordination Committee.

Sixth: Cooperation in the field of oil:

It was agreed that the competent Lebanese side will import its requirements of Syrian crude oil and its by-products that are available in Syria in accordance with long-term agreements and conditions setting the modality of how to compute prices in a manner that will be in line with the world prices of these commodities.

Seventh: Cooperation in the field of industry:

After reviewing the possibilities of benefitting from the available production potential in the fertilizers plant and the (eternit) plant in Lebanon for the purpose of meeting Syrian needs of these two materials, the committee has agreed on the following:

A. To have the competent ministers in the two countries prepare long-term agreements on exporting Syrian phosphates and importing Lebanese fertilizers. These agreements shall be referred to the committee so it may make the necessary decisions.

B. To specify the kinds of (eternit) that is produced in Lebanon and which could be exported to Syria under long-term agreements and according to world prices.

Eighth: In the field of setting up joint ventures:

The competent ministries in the two countries will be asked to form a technical committee with the participation of representatives from the private sector and the economic institutions in the two countries to prepare economic and financial feasibility studies for several projects in the agricultural anf touristic fields, and set up joint and mixed companies in the two countries for this purpose, including, as an example, the following:

- —Azotic fertilizers plant.
- Urea plant.
- Cotton weaving and textile plant.
- White cement plant.
- Portland cement plant.
- Soft drinks plant.
- Plants for the processing of vegetables, and fruits andrefrigeration units.
- Plant for producing canning and packing materials.
- Other industrial, or agricultural, or touristic projects onwhich the two sides agree.

The commitee stressed the importance of the standardization of specifications and measures applied in both countries through a committee that will prepare studies for this purpose.

Ninth: Cooperation in the communications field:

The formation of a committee under the chairmanship of the minister of communications in the SAR and the minister of telecommunications and posts in the Republic of Lebanon whose task will be as follows:

1.To take the appropriate measures for the implementation of the projects listed in the joint minutes signed in Damascus on 28 February 1993 and follow up on them.

2. To follow up on issues of cooperation in communications, posts, and local industries available in this field.

The deliberations between the two sides were held in an atmosphere permeated by brotherhood that expresses the depth of the fraternal bonds that exist between the two fraternal countries.

It was decided to hold the second meeting of the Followup and Coordination Committee in Damascus in April 1994.

Beirut, 16 September 1993 [Signed] Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi, SAR prime minister; Rafiq al- Hariri, prime minister of the Republic of Lebanon

Al-Zu'bi, Delegation Depart

NC1609172893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Lebanese-Syrian talks within the Coordination and Follow-up Committee emanating from the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty between the two countries have ended with the signing of four agreements in the fields of health, economy, transportation, and agriculture. The agreements were signed on the Lebanese side by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and the concerned ministers and on the Syrian side by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the concerned ministers.

Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation left Beirut at 1615 today. [passage omitted]

Omani Foreign Affairs Ministry Delegation Visits

Prime Minister, Speaker Receive Group

NC1609195793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri received in his house in Quraytim at 2100 today Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by ministers Faris Buwayz, Muhsin Dallul, Muhammad Ghaziri, Bahij Tabbarah, and Fu'ad Sinyurah; and Zafir al-Hasan, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry.

Discussions revolved around the political developments in the region in light of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the 11th round of the bilateral negotiations.

Al-Hariri held a dinner banquet at the end of the talks in honor of the visiting delegation.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri received the Omani minister and delegation in his house in al-Musaylih at 1800 today in the presence of Zafir al-Hasan.

Following the meeting, Bin-'Alawi stressed that the Sultanate of Oman is eager to support Lebanon in its development and construction process.

Decision Made To Reopen Embassies

NC1709092793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, has announced that his country has decided to reopen its embassy in Beirut. Bin-'Alawi made this statement after he conveyed an oral message to President Ilyas al-Hirawi from the Sultan of Oman Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

He said that President al-Hirawi informed him that the Lebanese Government has decided to reopen its embassy in Oman.

President al-Hirawi earlier discussed general events in the country and the latest developments in the regional arena with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz who participated in the meeting between President al-Hirawi and the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs.

Buwayz, Omani Minister Comment

NC1609191593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz met at the Foreign Ministry today with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, who arrived in Lebanon from Qatar. They discussed bilateral relations and the developments in the region. [passage omitted]

At the Bustrus Palace [Foreign Ministry], the Omani minister pointed out that Lebanon's observations on the Gaza-Jericho agreement are not directed against peace and are justified. He stressed that the key to success on the Lebanese-Israeli track is Israel's withdrawal from the south. He added:

[Begin Bin-'Abdallah recording] We believe that the Lebanese position supports peace and that Lebanon's observations made on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement are justified and must not be interpreted as a stand against peace or against the way the Palestinians have handled their own issues with the Israelis.

We were also briefed by his excellency the minister on Lebanon's views regarding the future rounds of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. We support Lebanon's stand and believe that the key to success on the Lebanese-Israeli track lies in Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon. Lebanon is a sovereign state that is exercising its sovereign rights over its territories and will never shirk its international obligations under any circumstances. The Lebanese state can shoulder its responsibilities and those of its people under any plan to establish peace in the Middle East. It can join its Arab brothers in shouldering the responsibilities of making peace with the Israeli side.

We have told his excellency the minister that we will back the Lebanese position, because it is a just position. I believe that the Israelis should show understanding of these circumstances. [passage omitted] [end recording]

For his part, Minister Buwayz noted that their talks centered on ways of supporting Lebanon in its battle to regain its rights within the context of the peace process. He added:

[Begin Buwayz recording] We have reviewed the bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries and have agreed on the need to consolidate these ties by various means. In addition, we have reviewed the regional developments, particularly those related to the peace process and the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

I briefed his excellency the minister on Lebanon's views on this matter. I believe that his excellency the minister, who is closely and thoroughly watching the peace process and Lebanon's position with full awareness, has understood Lebanon's position and requisites. We also discussed ways of supporting Lebanon in its battle to regain its rights within the context of the peace process. His excellency the minister expressed Oman's support for Lebanon at this stage. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Minister Meets al-Hirawi, Departs

NC1709110793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Beirut today for home. Earlier today he met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and conveyed an oral message from Sultan Qabus. [passage omitted]

Swedish Move To Pull Out UNIFIL Contingent Reported

NC1709122193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] The UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] operating in south Lebanon has officially been informed that the Swedish Government has decided to withdraw its UNIFIL contingent. The Swedish Government yesterday announced the withdrawal of its 500-man contingent to participate in the UN forces that will be sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Cuban Official Expresses Solidarity, Views Ties

NC1609141093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Minister Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has held a luncheon in honor of Pedro Miret, Cuban vice president in the Council of State and the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

The head of the Middle East Department at the Cuban Foreign Ministry said that the Cuban delegation, headed by Mr. Miret, has expressed solidarity with Lebanon. He told a news conference that the delegation held talks with Lebanese officials on the Middle East situation and bilateral ties. It was agreed, he said, that a joint construction company be established to build low-cost houses in southern Lebanon. He said that a Lebanese trade delegation is now visiting Cuba to establish trade relations between the two countries.

On Cuban President Fidel Castro's message to President al-Hirawi, the Cuban official said that it includes the necessary steps to strengthen ties between Lebanon and Cuba. President Castro stressed his full support for Lebanon and its sovereignty, he said.

The Cuban official reviewed the situation in his country in light of the continued 30-year-old U.S. siege and after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Chilean Foreign Minister Meets Buwayz, Others

NC1709123693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] The Chilean foreign minister arrived in Beirut from Damascus today. He held talks with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Agriculture Minister 'Adil Qurtas, and Chamber of Deputies Deputy Speaker Elie Firizli.

Khaddam Holds Meeting With DFLP'S Hawatimah

JN1609154693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has received a Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] delegation under DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah.

A DFLP spokesman said the discussion during the meeting dealt with the situation in the region, and the many possibilities on the level of the peace negotiations, in wake of the conclusion of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement in Washington.

This is the Syrian vice president's second meeting of its kind. Two days ago, Khaddam received Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Secretary General Dr. George Habash to whom he reaffirmed Syria's committment to support the Palestinian people and their national rights until the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as capital. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Returns From Lebanon Visit

JN1609174093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus, 16 Sep (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his accompanying delegation returned to Damascus this evening following an official visit to the Republic of Lebanon.

Al-Zu'bi led the Syrian side to the meetings of the Followup and Coordination Committee emanating from the Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty between Syria and Lebanon.

Al-Shar' Confers With Syrian-Lebanese Council Head

JN1409151393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Sep

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received this morning Nasri al-Khuri, secretary general of the Syrian-Lebanese Higher Council.

Talks at the meeting dealt with fraternal bilateral relations and dimensions of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The duties and responsibilities of the Higher Syrian-Israel Council's secretariat were reviewed as well as the secretariat's role in activating the Fraternity, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty in order to enable the two sisterly states to face the future challenges.

'Full Withdrawal' From Golan for Peace

JN1609151293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] A second session of talks has been held at the headquarters of the National Progressive Front [NPF] between a delegation representing the NPF, led by comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, member of the Central Command, and chairman of the Coordination Bureau, and a delegation representing the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC], led by Hu Sheng, vice chairman of the CPPCC.

The two delegations resumed discussions they opened last Sunday [12 September]. They reviewed prospects for future cooperation between the NPF in the Syrian Arab Republic and the CPPCC in the PRC, to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples.

Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed the latest developments in the Arab arena, especially with regard to the peace process in the region and the outcome of the 11th round. Israel, he said, seeks to conclude separate deals, to weaken and divide Arabs, and impose on them its expansionist schemes and political approach.

Comrade al-Ahmar reasserted the basic principles that govern Syrian policy toward this question, emphasizing the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy and its resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, as well as Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

Comrade al-Ahmar explained that at a time when Syria is renewing its desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, as well as its concern to advance the peace process and to see it achieve the desired peace, it reaffirms that it will not bargain over or relinquish any inch of its occupied territory. Israel should commit itself to full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan if it is serious about making the peace process succeed and achieving its objective of a just, comprehensive peace in the region, he said.

The Syrian Arab side and the PRC delegation agreed to continue meetings and consultations on issues of interest to them and to their peoples, in line with the cooperation program signed between the NPF and the CPPCC.

German Official Received by al-Asad, Departs

JN1609095393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] At 1330 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Juergen Moellemann, chairman of the German-Arab Friendship Association and member of the German Federal Assembly, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by Syrian Ambassador to Germany Sulayman Haddad and German Ambassador in Damascus Thomas Troemel.

The talks dealt with the Middle East peace process and Syrian-German ties.

Muehlmann and his delegation left Damascus this afternoon. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by the Syrian ambassador in Bonn, the German ambassador in Damascus, and several officials of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Afghanistan

Presidential Decree Approves Constitutional Commission

LD1609234493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Announcement from the president's Press Office]

[Text] As our dear compatriots know, in order to finalize the draft of the country's basic principles and to put its legal steps on course, the Afghan president approved by decree the organization of a commission for the approval of the country's temporary constitution. All commission members are to report to an inauguration meeting of the commission on Monday, 21 September, at 1000 hours at the Golkhana hall of the presidency.

India

Paper Questions Use of U.S. Forces Under UN Aegis

BK1609094793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 7 Sep 93 p 8

[Editorial: US as World Cop"]

[Text] The Pentagon's blueprint of the new shape to be given to the American military machine is bound to sharpen the on-going worldwide debate on post-Cold War security. What will be of immediate interest to the Americans themselves is that the new strategy is meant to indicate the administrations's seriousness in cutting defence expenditure in substantial installments. This objective is sought to be achieved through manpower and hardware reductions. The military, for instance, is to consist of 10 active army divisions against 18 in 1990 and five reserve divisions in place of 10. Likewise, aircraft carriers will be brought down from 16 to 12, strategic bombers from 301 to 184 and ICBMs from 1,000 to 500. Such scaling down of the American military might is a logical sequel to the absence of a global challenge to the US following the demise of the Soviet Union. But the other part of the American military reorganisation involves the development of a highly mobile and lethal force (equipped with "smarter" weapons than were used in the Gulf War) which can be deployed at short notice in any corner of the world to deal with a regional conflict, threatened or actual.

Clearly, the Gulf War has provided the model for future interventions by the proposed American rapid deployment force. But that war gave rise to a controversy over the military initiative taken by the US to roll back the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Although the aim was universally shared, questions were raised particularly about the propriety of what was alleged to be imposition by the US of its own policy on the UN. The world organisation, in other words, was seen to have been manipulated by the US for the purpose of lending legitimacy to its unilaterally devised attack on Iraq. In that connection, there was much talk about two crucial issues. One was the imperative of US-sanctioned military intervention in any part of the world being carried out strictly under UN aegis through the activation of its own military affairs committee. The related issue was, and continues to be, that of the UN raising its own armed force to pre-empt or put an end to future regional conflicts.

There is currently no serious consideration of either of these issues at any level. That being so, it is hard to envisage a scenario different from what followed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in case the UN finds itself confronted with another crisis of this kind in the not-too-distant future. The potential flashpoints are believed to be the Korean peninsula, South Asia and the Gulf region once again. How then will the concerned governments view the prospect of a deployment of the proposed US force in their regions? An equally interesting question is whether the very forging of this instrument of instant intervention will serve to give an impetus to the search for a political solution of the relevant conflicts.

Country To Offer Antiterrorism Resolution in UN

BK1609093893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] India is likely to move a resolution in the UN General Assembly against terrorism. This was indicated by the foreign minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, in New Delhi yesterday. He said India will seek the support of the world community on this issue. Mr. Singh warned Pakistan of internationalizing Kashmir issue. He said Islamabad should try to resolve this issue using a bilateral forum. Mr. Singh said during his two weeks' stay in the United States, he will chair the troika meeting of G-15 countries and also attend the ministerial meeting of the nonaligned nations. Mr. Singh said he would be meeting about 30 foreign ministers who will gather at New York to attend the session. He will also meet the United States secretary of state, Mr. Warren Christopher.

Article Says U.S. Unilaterally Interprets MTCR

BK1509145993 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 24 Aug 93 p 13

[By S. Nihal Singh]

[Text] Bosnia-Herzegovina is significant not only for the blood-letting and tragedies it has been experiencing but also in foreshadowing the pattern of post-Cold War crimes. If United States and other major powers' interests are not directly involved in a crisis, a smaller power can achieve its objectives if it has the will to do so.

And the Serbs have shown that they are willing to take such punishments as sanctions and the opprobrium of the West to achieve their dream of Greater Serbia. The "international community" will perform the task of master of ceremonies to give its benediction to the Serbs'

triumph. The Serbs, at any rate, have proved to be brilliant diplomats in showing just enough flexibility to ward off the worst, in the recent instance, a laboriously-built plan to bomb targets.

Most actions in the post-Cold War regime are being justified in the name of the international community. What the new catch phrase means is that the U.S., singly or in league with other Western powers, lays down the law and suitable mechanisms are then devised, through the United Nations or the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, to carry out the policy.

The autonomy of the smaller and even medium powers is thus greatly constrained. The Serbs have shown that there are ways of carving out an area of autonomy, given national will. Other countries, such as North Korea are demonstrating that even small and poor countries have the capacity to upset the American apple cart on a key issue such as nuclear nonproliferation and manoeuvre to avoid sanctions, despite President Clinton's threat to decimate the country.

Nations such as Iran, declared state sponsors of terrorism by the U.S., are operating in a more limited space. But they are trying to build up new coalitions and are working on the assumption that there is enough resentment against the United States on the ground in West Asia, as opposod to governments attitudes, to pursue their national objectives.

The New World Order of the former U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, disappeared with his presidency, if not earlier. Its substitute, the "international community", is being viewed with equal suspicion by many countries, particularly in the developing world. What it signifies to a growing-number of countries is an attempt to promote American foreign policy interests under the garb of consensual politics.

The Gulf war proved that the United States is willing to fight for its vital interests and has the capacity to coopt middle powers and a weakened Russia to achieve its objectives. President Saddam Husayn's action in invading and annexing Kuwait was patently indefensible. He compounded his wrongdoing by choosing to fight the U.S. frontally although he can derive some wry satisfaction from his ability to stay in power more than two years after his defeat. Perhaps he overlooked the fact that Kuwait is an oil-rich country, not one growing potatoes.

In contrast, the Serbs saw a chink in the Western armour. The U.S. was initially happy to leave a crisis on West Europe's doorstep to the Europeans to sort out. The Serbs realised that none of the West European powers had the interest or the will to involve a national army in a civil war. Besides, the European Economic Community did not have a coherent policy or the mechanism to enforce a regime.

A reluctant United Nations involvement did not deter the Serbs from pursuing their objective. And a belated American attempt to punisb Serbs by using air power got bogged down in the Europeans' reluctance to see their soldiers on the ground policing humanitarian supplies threatened by reprisals. By the time the U.S. egged NATO to agree to a bombing plan, subject to an initial veto by the UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the Serbs had achieved their essential objective in Bosnia and were ready to talk peace and appear reasonable.

An embarrassment to Europeans and Americans was television's capacity to bring the horrors of a civil war into their living rooms. The West European salved their conscience by sending more humanitarian aid and finally, by offering hospital beds to the seriously wounded, particularly children.

While the Serbs have capitalised on favourable factors, each middle power is seeking to gain space to pursue its national interest in a world weighted against its ability to exercise autonomy in decision-making. The lessons the world has drawn thus far are that it does not pay to engage the U.S. in a direct confrontation but that there are other ways of trying to achieve one's objectives.

Libya's conciliatory moves towards the West flow from its realisation that even its friends will not stand up against the U.S. in helping to end U.S.-inspired sanctions. And China, despite its status as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, is careful not to translate its rhetoric into action. While Russia has been able to help the Serbs in slowing down the process of U.S. (and UN) decision-making, it is helpless in resisting American pressure, as its reneging on the rocket deal with India demonstrated.

The other ways of seeking autonomy are to exploit the divisions in the West or between the West and Russia or the West and Japan and build up flexible coalition. Most countries are in search of new tactical allies which are likely to vary from issue to issue.

Obviously, the aim of any responsible country must be to help bring about a better and more peaceful world. The difficulty arises when one country or a group of countries sets the agenda to the exclusion of the interests of others and demands compliance under pain of penal sanctions. A variation of this theme is that an exclusive group decides what is best for the rest of the world.

At the heart of the debate on nuclear non-proliferation and missile technology lies the perpetuation of the present power equations in the world. No one is talking about the end of the era of nuclear weapons, and the United States has had considerable success in getting the overwhelming number of countries to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and is seeking its indefinite extension.

The NPT is beginning to unravel because North Korea took the option of withdrawing from it under its rules, a decision it has suspended for the present. Second, the break-up of the Soviet Union has meant that four

countries of the former Soviet Union—Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan—now possess weapons that belonged to one until recently.

Belarus presents no problem, and although Ukraine and Kazakhstan agreed to forgo the nuclear weapon option under U.S. pressure, there is great reluctance in the two capitals to implement the agreement. The process of dismantling these weapons will, in any event, take several years to accomplish in the best of circumstances. Both these countries are loath to give up an acknowledged currency of power, except at a very high price. Ukraine has not signed the NPT nor ratified the SALT I agreement.

Missile technology control is determined by a cartel under the rubric of the Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR]. The MTCR, often unilaterally interpreted by the U.S., decrees that except for a charmed circle, all other countries must not build missiles beyond a specified range. Here again the world is divided into two distinct categories: the nuclear and missile oligarchy and the rest.

The testing time for India and much of the rest of the world lies ahead as pressures mount to force them to become a part of the "international community". A country's success or failure in withstanding these pressures will depend upon how it builds up coalitions and how great the national will is to face difficulties and privations. Saying "no" carries a price which can, in some circumstances, be steep.

Tourism Minister Visits Turkmenistan, Meets Officials

BK1609053393 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1449 GMT 15 Sep 93

["Press Release" issued in New Delhi on 15 September 93]

[Text] Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, paid an official visit to Ashgabat on 13-14 September to sign agreement on establishment of air services between India and Turkmenistan. The minister called on President Saparmurad Niyazov and had a 40-minute meeting with him, during which there were discussions on the further development of our bilateral relations. The minister also met Deputy Prime Minister Sarjayev Batir Kurbanovich [name and title as received], Foreign Minister Atayev, Minister for Culture and Tourism Nurmukhamedov, and Minister of Civil Aviation Ilyas Bediyev. The minister offered India's assistance in the development of the tourism industry in Turkmenistan to help develop the tourism industry year for Turkmen students to study at prestigious hotel management institutes in India. [sentence as received] Experts from India would also visit Turkmenistan to help develop the tourism industry. The minister's meetings with the president, signing of the air services agreement, and his other engagements were prominently covered on Turkmen television.

Air Accord Signed With Three Republics

BK1709104293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] India has signed air services agreements with the Central Asian republics of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. The agreements were signed during the civil aviation minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad's, visit to these republics, Moscow, and Uzbekistan.

Briefing newsmen about the visit in New Delhi today, Mr. Azad said there is tremendous scope for cooperation in tourism, trade, and civil aviation with these countries. The minister said these republics have also shown keen interest in promoting tourism with India. Mr. Azad said India proposed setting up of joint ventures in hotel industry and offered consultancy services.

Approval for 24 More RR Battalions Expected Soon

BK1609054293 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 6 Sep 93 p 11

[By Pravin Sawhney]

[Text] New Delhi—A Rs [rupees] 300 crore Defence Ministry proposal to raise an additional 24 Rastriya Rifles (RR) batallions (25,000 troops) and related infrastructure is expected to be soon cleared by the Union Cabinet.

Once cleared, the financial provisions will be reflected in the ministry's supplementary grants for 1993-94 due to be submitted by beginning of October. A case has been made where, unlike the present, RR annual budgets will be over and above the defence budgets, according to authoritative sources.

The proposal has simultaneously been sent to the Home Ministry for comments. This has been done as these forces, though directly under the control of Army headquarters, are meant for internal security duties. Along with other paramilitary forces, RR with an exclusive Army ethos and all-India character will be under the command and coordination of security adviser to the concerned state Governor.

RR will eventually replace all army involved in internal security duties. Their tasks will be rear area security, counter-insurgency operations, maintenance of law and order, aid to civil authorities including disaster relief and augmentation of the Army during war.

The concept and requirement for RR has been elaborated upon by the Defence Ministry to the Nineteenth Estimate Committee (1992-93). "In recent years, hitherto unknown dimension has been added to our security concerns—a threat to rear areas of the battle zone from enemy commandos and terrorists. Terrorist groups are highly motivated, well trained and armed with sophisticated weapons. They are organised like guerilla units on military lines with well-specified channels of command

and control. There is also the possibility of another dimension to this threat in the form of enemy airborne/ para-dropped commandos fully supported by local terrorists. It is felt that, as the civil authorities are not trained or equipped to withstand such attacks merely through the deployment of paramilitary forces, a specialised army-oriented force will be necessary to effectively tackle the situation."

Presently the RR has six battalions under two sector headquarters at Anantnag in Kashmir and Amritsar in Punjab. With a meagre 1993-94 maintenance budget of Rs 11.2 crore, RR battalions have been sustained entirely through Army deputations, both for officers and men.

The RR raising proposal envisages a total of 30 battalions under 6 to 8 sector headquarters. Initially manpower and battalion support weapons will be drawn entirely from the Army with a provision later to induct certain percentage of fresh recruits and also lateral entrants from Territorial Army (infantry) battalions. Pending own regimental centre, orientation and holding centres, which in due course will come up on existing defence land, existing Army resources will be made available to the still to be appointed director general of Rashtriya Rifles (DGRR).

Interestingly, there is a strong move to shift DGRR headquarters from Delhi to Kashmir.

The sudden impetus to RR raisings given by the Prime Minister himself despite the ministry having earlier frozen any further raisings due to resources crunch, has been attributed to four reasons. First, the Army Chief Gen. B.C.Joshi appears to have convinced the Government on the urgent requirement for RR raisings, as trainlng, morale and maintenance of regular troops and equipment has taken knocks because of increased and unending internal security duties.

Secondly, as the Army has already undertaken its restructuring and reorganisation, it would be possible to milk troops from various regiments for the RR raisings. "Once the Army approves the closing down of certain static area and sub-areas, proper accommodation can also be made available to the RR on little additional cost," observed an officer.

Thirdly, recent successes by RR battalions both in Kashmir and Punjab have convinced the authorities on the urgency of their raising schedules. For instance, the dreaded Panthic Committee member Gurbachan Manochal was killed by the RR troops in Amritsar .

And, importantly, the success of the recent move to have a unified command for all forces in J&K [Jammu & Kashmir] under Lt Gen M.A.Zaki (Retd), adviser to the Governor depends upon internal security duties presently being done by Army to be transferred to RR.

Merchant Held in Connection With Madras Bombing

BK1609135693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a leather merchant in connection with the bomb blast at the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, National Volunteer Corps] headquarters in Madras on the 8th of last month. He was arrested under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act. The CBI disclosed the arrest and remand of the accused, Rafiq Ahmed, to a bench of the Madras High Court when his mother and son filed a habeas corpus petition seeking his release.

Election Commission Petitions Supreme Court

BK1709032993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] The Election Commission has moved the Supreme Court seeking directions that the entire election machinery of the union as well as of the states should be placed at its disposal. In an application moved before the apex court yesterday, the commission said it should be the ultimate authority in the appointment of staff, who would be under the disciplinary control of the commission for the period during which they will be on election duty. It said the center and all state governments should be asked to make available to the commission the staff, including officials named by it, for the discharge of its function. The commission has also sought certain directions in regard to deployment of police forces so that it can effectively discharge its constitutional obligations to conduct free and fair elections.

Iran

Palestinian Issue Sparks Reactions Among Top Officials

Khamene'i Addresses IRGC

LD1609202993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1700 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Speech by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to officers of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in Tehran on 16 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

On the issue of Palestine, the truth of the matter is what has been announced openly and in several official documents by the Islamic Republic of Iran for many long years. A gang and a group of people who were dependent on the big powers and who were their mercenaries came and usurped Palestine on the basis of their dependence. Can anyone deny this fact? How many of these few

million Zionists who are today in our occupied land in Palestine are Palestinian? How many of them were born in Palestine or how many of their fathers were born in Palestine? They are aliens who were brought to that land from different places with evil intentions to turn that place into their base and to easily spread the influence of arrogant powers in the region.

Is this not usurpation? Is this not injustice? Should this not be condemned? Is this fact not condemned by the freedom-loving people, ordinary and fair-minded people, from any religion or sect—that a group of people go and occupy somebody else's home and town? When we say that the Zionists are usurpers and are tyrannical are we saying something wrong? A group of wronged people who had been suppressed and whose rights had been usurped engaged in struggle in the course of many long years. Is the person who is fighting to defend his own land a terrorist or a hero?

For many years, from many parts of the world of arrogance—from official circles of course, not ordinary people—the propagandist directed by the Zionists and the capitalists who are affiliated with Zionism repeated the allegation that these people are terrorists, and said: Why do they fight? Eventually, they managed to bring about the situation which we have witnessed during the past couple of years, and they are now calling it peace. Is this peace? That fellow [reference to President Clinton who quoted verses from the Koran about the need for peace] now has also become an Islamic scholar and tells us that the Koran has said that you must make peace. Is this peace? Is this the kind of peace that Islam and the Koran have enjoined us to work for?

The fact that someone engages in a tyrannical act and then that one force the tyrannized person to accept this tyranny without any compromise from the oppressor and without reducing the oppressor's injustice—is this peace? Or is it a disgrace, is it a surrender to tyranny? It is the act of giving in to tyranny that is forbidden and condemned by the holy religion of Islam.

Today they are celebrating, thinking that the issue of Palestine is over. I tell them that the issue of Palestine is not over. They should not fool themselves. Of course, the world of arrogance, in accordance with the [Koranic] verse "their light has been taken away from them and they are left groping in darkness," is incapable of understanding human realities, despite all the so-called scientific analysis which they carry out. The issue is not over. There is no change in the issue. The issue of Palestine is still there as it has always been.

The Palestinian side is not that of that puny, ill-reputed, blackguard, seeming-Palestinian whose true nature God only knows. He is not the Palestinian side and has no right to go and make a deal. Is Mr. 'Arafat the Palestinian nation? Who is 'Arafat to go and make a deal over Palestine with the occupiers of Palestine and the Zionists who have created hundreds of catastrophic incidents which have been registered in history, as well as those which have gone unregistered. Have the issues of Dayr Yasin and the villages that were destroyed by dynamite over the very heads of their inhabitants been forgotten? Is it possible to forget such issues? Who is responsible for such incidents? Now the same people have come and received a signature from a man of no significance saying that it is 45 years since we occupied this place and now you come and sign that this place belongs to us. Can they do that? Does anyone accept that?

The American and Zionist leaders as well those wretched and puny characters who sat around the negotiating table and those who witnessed that signature should know that Palestinian fists will continue to strike blows at the occupiers. [participants chant: God is the Greatest; Khamene'i is the Leader; Down with America; Down with Israel; No compromise, No surrender; Combat against Israel]

They parade world propaganda before everyone's eyes with such clamor, saying that: Well, yes, some Palestinians are pleased. Well, everywhere mercenaries, weak people, ignorant people—who do not realize what their tomorrows will be like—of course these exist; and it may well be that way too. Why is the world of Islam not asked for its opinion in this matter? This is an Islamic matter. In the very Arab world itself, some Arab leaders surrendered themselves to that treachery, and accepted that treachery in a scandalous way. If you are telling the truth about world propaganda being free, go to those same Arab states and interview the people. When it comes that, the freedom of propaganda and the freedom of speech are no longer meaningful; it is no longer considered to be among the principles of Western democracy.

Let them go interview the people to see what they say. Is the Islamic community [ummah] prepared to disregard all those martyrs it has given in those 45 years? Is the Islamic community those four traitor kings and presidents who offer with both hands anything America nods for. The Islamic community is an Islamic nation [mellat]. The Arab community also, within its limits, is more courageous and proud than all that.

This struggle will be dragged inside the nations, as it has been before. So, it became clear that the issues of nationalism and ethnicity cannot resolve great problems, Islam must resolve them. And it will resolve them, with the grace of God. [Audience shouts: Amen] The Muslim nation is present in all the areas of the Islamic states. They possess Islamic honor, they possess Islamic sympathies. Would they so easily give up just because someone has gone and given his signature? He had no business to sign. What right did he have to sign?

The Palestininian nation will not give up either. Of course this juncture is an important juncture. This is a big conspiracy. In all the Islamic world the sympathizers must be more vigilant than ever. In here the same. The enemy has taken one trench and advanced. But this is

not the final victory. This is not the real victory. They will get their smack across the mouth. [Audience shouts: Amen]

The world of Islam must counterattack. And in all the areas of the world of Islam the youth, the intellectuals, and the scholars—especially religious scholars—should feel responsibility.

And I also tell the political leaders of the Islamic governments here and now that they should not imagine that by acquiescing to and following the usurper Israel in such a great matter that America will stop their aggressions, their oppressions. They put one step forward... [pauses] You give up one step, they will advance another step! Up till now you had a weapon. Those who were hanging on to that slogan; why did they lose it? By what proper analysis?

And the Islamic Republic of Iran has had its say these last 15 years through the mouth of its worthy imam and the Iranian nation. And it is still the same. Truth does not become old-fashioned, does not become an untruth through the passage of time. Tyranny does not become legitimate through the passage of time. A tyranny was perpetrated 45 years ago: the Palestine people's home was usurped. That home must be returned to the Palestine nation in toto and unconditionally. [audience chants: God is great; Khamene'i is the leader; Death to America; Death to Israel; Death to the Zionists; Death to the hypocrites and Saddam; death to Israel; O valiant leader, we are ready]

The characteristic of the Islamic government is that it does not retreat when a hostile climate is created. They big powers can keep saying that you will become isolated. What isolation? If cheeky world powers come and a make lot of ballyhoo and raise a hue and cry to try and justify a wrong as a right, should we then leave the scene and say: Yes sir, you are right? What would Islamic government then mean? They say you will become isolated. Very well that is obvious. [passage omitted]

The Islamic government has sufficient chivalry and bravery to announce what is right without being frightened of America and the allied powers of the world. The difference between us and a weak dependent country is exactly in that. Those governments are fearful that are not at one [vasl] with their nations. Had they been at one with their nations they would have also been courageous to say what they really believed.

We are at one with our nation. We are not a government that has no support, like a curtain that has been drawn somewhere by force without anything being behind it. No sir, we enjoy a great deal of support. Our support is a great, devoted 50-million-strong nation. Our support is the logic and reason which dominates our spirits. We do not surrender to injustice. We do not surrender to bullying and shameful impudence of America and the powers allied with America. [audience chants slogans in support]

The Koran has taught us to tell firmly what is right and to insist on it; and to mobilize our force for it. Almighty God will bless us; will help us. Our fate, the past 15 years, and the heroic events relating to the Iranian nation prove that point. And Almighty God will be with you; that is what you should know.

I have felt vividly the truth of what our great imam used to say both in public and to us in private—that Almighty God was helping this nation and that His divine powerful hand supported this nation. So you must rely on God's help. Today you are the source of hope for the world. Do not pay attention to noises made by the windbags of the world; they are not the people, the intellectuals, and the thinkers of the world. They all tell lies. A shameless person comes to poke fun and talk nonsense. That does not represent what the peoples say.

The nation that stands firm on correct principles is the source of hope for all nations who like a correct and logical debate. Today you are such a nation. May God's blessings be with you. We hope that the immaculate prayers of the Lord of the Age—may our souls be sacrificed for him—will always bless you, the dear and brave nation, and especially you, the faithful, competent and self-sacrificing youth. God willing, he will show you the full victory.

Nateq-Nuri Condemns Accord

LD1609141993 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] On the last day of the sixth gathering of the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] commanders and officials, Majlis Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri condemned the disgraceful accord between the PLO and the al-Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime, calling it a measure carried out by global imperialism in line with the U.S. new world order.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri said Palestine is not separate from us, and the Palestine issue is not an issue we can simply give up.

The Majlis speaker added that the United States intends to keep the Zionist regime safe by waging a civil war in Palestine.

At present, added the Majlis speaker, Iran is the only country to have condemned the accord and which does not recognize the al-Qods occupying regime.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri elsewhere pointed to the significant role played by Iran in international circles and in the world of Islam in expanding Islam and Islamism in the world, and said through the explicit stand introduced by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, we know exactly what we are supposed to do. And it is because of this very that world imperialism is frightened and thinks that any kind of anti-imperialist move in the world, especially if it is somewhat religious, is led by Iran.

In conclusion the Majlis speaker pointed to the second five-year development plan and expressed hope that by the end of the plan, the country will move toward being provided for by the income of non-oil exports and that the country's oil exports can be used for infrastructural investment.

Khomeyni Addresses IRGC Meeting on Accord

LD1609155793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] The commanders and officials taking part in the nationwide congregation of commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] attended the holy shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise. They laid a wreath at the blessed tomb, and renewed their allegiance with the aspirations of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni made some remarks, during which he paid tribute to the selfless sacrifices of the IRGC and said that he considers the duties of the IRGC during the period of reconstruction to be very important and grave.

Referring to the multifaceted conspiracies of the enemies of the Islamic revolution, he urged vigilance toward such plots. He added: Today the world is encumbered with America and the Zionist regime occupying al-Qods [Jerusalem]. They have imposed a degrading peace on some Palestinian leaders and Arab countries involved in the issue.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni then referred to the PLO-Tel Aviv accord, and stressed that this shameful treachery can never extinguish the flames of Palestine's revolution and the intifada in the occupied territories.

Emami-Kashani Sermon Attacks Agreement

LD1709105793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani delivered today's religious and political Friday prayer sermon in Tehran. He condemned 'Arafat's shameful agreement with the usurper Zionist regime, and said: The truth behind this agreement is the formal surrender of the Palestinian territory to its occupiers, the violation of all the rights of the oppressed people of Palestine, an undertaking to protect the lives of Israelis, and hostility against any Palestinian group that opposes the occupier regime. In a word, it is the acceptance of a life of abject servitude under the banner of the Israeli Government.

The interim Tehran Friday prayer leader pointed out that treason against the world of Islam and the Palestinian nation is committed by a person who is himself a tool in Israel's hands. He said: That treacherous act, which is the ultimate conspiracy hatched by arrogance, will itself result in the further awakening of nations, particularly those in the Islamic community. The Islamic ummah in any part of the world condemn it unanimously.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani said: Nations now, more than ever, are wise to the crimes of arrogant leaders. The Muslim and alert people of Palestine will continue their struggle against the usurper Zionist regime as always.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani added: Islamic countries, and particularly Arab countries should know that the greed of the usurper Israel is not limited to Palestine, and once over this hurdle, Israel will covet other Islamic lands.

He also pointed out the responsibility of Friday prayer leaders in Islamic countries to enhance the struggle against the Zionist regime.

Continuing his second sermon, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani referred to the anniversary of the holy defense, and praised martyrs, self-sacrificing devotees, and combatants of the eight-year holy defense. He also extended his praise to their esteemed families.

Also, on the eve of the new academic year, he explained the valuable role played by teachers and urged them to further endeavor to enhance the quality of education. He also asked students to strive to gain knowledge.

Finally, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani stressed the role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Voice and Vision, particularly the Vision, in the important task of confronting cultural onslaughts. He called on the Islamic Consultative Majlis to allocate an appropriate budget in order to assist this organization to perform its responsibilities.

French Foreign Ministry Official Holds Talks on Ties

LD1709083593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Serge Boidevaix, secretary general of France's Foreign Ministry, has held a second round of talks with Mr. Va'ezi, our country's deputy foreign minister, in Tehran. He explained developments pertaining to European unity and said that unity will be useful for cooperation between various world circles and foundations. He said: Despite existing problems, the future of that unity is clear and it is progressing steadily.

M. Boidevaix referred to the bad situation of the Iraqi Muslims and said: Efforts should be made to end their difficult situation. He also stressed the need for cooperation between France and Iran, particularly concerning regional and international issues.

Mr. Va'ezi also elaborated on the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy and pointed out the effective steps taken by our country for establishing peace and stability in the newly independent former Soviet republics and Afghanistan. Referring to measures adopted by the

Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf region, he said that cooperation and understanding among regional countries are the best means of creating stability in this region.

Our country's deputy foreign minister criticized the hostile and baseless western propaganda concerning the issue of the Chinese ship, "Yinhe", and the unfounded accusations made in that regard and termed them a disgrace for western news circles. Mr. Va'ezi also criticized the west's double standards toward the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for further attention by international circles to help the defenseless Muslims of Bosnia.

In a meeting with Mr. Ruhani, representative of the exalted leadership, Supreme National Security Council secretary, and deputy speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Serge Boidevaix, secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, referred to the fact that the government and people of France consider relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran to be of particular importance. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's independent policy is one of the most important factors for strengthening those relations.

Stressing the readiness of the French Government to expand political, parliamentary, economic, and cultural ties with Iran, he said: The future belongs to Iran and this is something that the world pays attention to, and we have also opened a special account for our ties with Iran and their expansion.

The secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry extended an invitation to Ruhani to visit France.

Referring to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country in the region that relies on the popular vote and enjoys the support of a decisive majority of the people, Mr. Ruhani described Iran as the most stable democratic country in the region and stressed: The independent policies of the two countries will effectively underpin future cooperation. Parliamentary cooperation in particular can offer important support for the expansion of ties between the two countries.

Relations With Russia, Regional Developments Viewed

LD1709051893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In a telephone conversation with the Russian President Boris Yeltsin yesterday, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, discussed bilateral relations as well as the latest regional developments—especially in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan.

In the opinion of political analysts related to regional affairs, this telephone contact, which comes just before Mr. Yeltsin's state visit to Tehran, is significant for two reasons. First, on the account of the major events which we have observed during the current war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the recent weeks and, secondly, due to the role that both Iran and Russia play in maintaining security and stability in the region.

In the opinion of informed observers, considering traditional ties which have existed between Iran and Russia for many years, cooperation between Tehran and Moscow can prove very effective in reducing the existing tension in regional states, including Azerbaijan and Tajikistan. This is because both countries have close and historical ties with the regional states. In the middle of it all, Iran has a special position in the countries of Central Asia and Caucasia, both culturally and spiritually. Therefore, Iran's active role in maintaining peace and security in these regions can naturally not be ignored.

This is precisely the same point which was stressed by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin in his telephone conversation with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Presently, by virtue of Iran's constructive role in reducing regional tension, the reciprocal cooperation between Tehran and Moscow, which was reiterated in the telephone conversation Wednesday, can contribute to the eventual resolution of the existing dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

In this connection, the Islamic Republic of Iran ahs made certain positive moves over the past fortnight in the wake of the culmination of the clashes. These include telephone contact between the presidents of Iran and Azerbaijan, dispatch of a special Iranian emissary to Yerevan to express Tehran's concern over the continuing aggression of the Armenian forces, and, finally, a favorable response from the Armenian president on halting the Armenian forces' advance and on withdrawing from the occupied regions—including the city of (?Qobadlu).

However, Western mass media and irresponsible political circles are still seeking to create an atmosphere of insecurity and pessimism. By spreading unfounded rumors, they are trying to create discord among the countries which are endeavoring to terminate this futile war. Despite this situation, further talks and contacts among the top officials of regional states can help neutralize the current thoughts.

Undoubtedly, Mr. Yeltsin's visit to Tehran will provide a very suitable opportunity for the leaders of Iran and Russia to closely examine major regional issues, including the clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia and also the war in Tajikistan. Undoubtedly, this visit will usher in a new era in the age-old ties between the two countries. Considering the fact that the problems of the region can be resolved only through political negotiations, it appears that favorable conditions have now emerged, and these have made the informed observers hopeful about a positive trend of events in the future.

One can say without hesitation that the establishment of stability and security in the region will hinge on not intervening in the internal affairs of countries, on

respecting reciprocal rights and, eventually, on maintaining cordial relations on the basis of mutual interests.

Nepal

King Birendra Prorogues Fifth Parliamentary Session

BK1609165893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1652 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 16 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal Thursday [16 September] prorogued the fifth session of parliament to the apparent relief of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, who is under pressure from the country's communists to resign.

During the seven week session, the parliament passed 21 bills and the government's Rupees 35.51 billion (724 million U.S. dollars) budget for the 1993/94 fiscal year ending 15 July.

The prorogation appeared to have paved the way for Koirala to make a major cabinet reshuffle before the King's departure Monday for Beijing, a highly placed Nepali Congress (NC) source said.

Koirala, who has been fending off communist pressure for four months, has already discussed the reshuffle with the high command of the NC, including party president, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, and its supreme leader, Ganesh Man Singh.

The NC source indicated the possibility of the dismissal of at least five senior cabinet ministers and the induction of both new and old faces, some of whom had served in the Koirala Government in the last cabinet in December 1991.

Meanwhile, the four leftist factions who threw the country into confusion with violent strikes in the past months, continued their agitation demanding the resignation of Koirala.

Koirala is expected to continue in the government until the next winter session which opens in mid-1994, but party and political sources say he may not complete his five-year term ending mid May 1996 if he fails to control the agitation.

The four left factions have called for a dawn-to-dusk strike on September 21 to seek the peoples' cooperation to remove Koirala from office, United Peoples Front (ULF) leader Babu Ram Bhattarai said.

"We will continue our agitation till Koirala steps down from office," Bhattarai said.

During the parliamentary session the MP's met 54 times to pass the 21 bills including the Royal Nepal Academy (RNA) bill—which for the first time made the Prime Minister and Education Minister the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of the RNA respectively.

Hitherto, the king has been chancellor of the RNA. The RNA administration will now be headed by a joint chancellor appointed from the RNA's hand picked 40-member council.

Other important bills included the university grants commission bill, the multi-lateral investment guarantee bill, privatization of state-run industries bill and the state loan and collateral bill.

In so doing, the parliament gave the elected government a mandate to raise a maximum of Rupees 100 billion (2.1 billion U.S. dollars) in domestic and foreign loans for state use.

Pakistan

Foreign Office Spokesman Briefs Reporters

BK1609160893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Pakistan has again called upon the Indian Government to halt its atrocities against the people of Kashmir and allow them to exercise their right to self-determination. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that India is carrying out a campaign of state terrorism in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The spokesman pointed out that India's disinformation campaign and its threats against Pakistan reflect the frustration of the Indian authorities in their failure to break the will of the Kashmiris by brutal repression and force. Taking strong exception to the baseless allegations of Indian leaders against Pakistan, the spokesman urged New Delhi to enter into negotiations with Islamabad to evolve a solution of the Kashmir question in accordance with the United Nations resolutions.

Turning to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the spokesman described the proposed plan of the division of the Muslim republic into three ethnic groups as inequitable. He said the plan accepts the brutal aggression against the Bosnian Muslims, which is aimed at making the Muslims economically weak. The spokesman expressed his regret over the pressure being exerted on the Bosnian Government to accept the unjust settlement, and he said Pakistan understands that the Bosnian Government is facing a very alarming situation. He said the champions of a durable international order should not forget that freedom, democracy, and human rights are as important for Bosnia, Kashmir, and the Middle East as they are for Western and Eastern Europe.

About the visit to Pakistan by General Joseph P. Hoar, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, the spokesman said that his visit is a part of the exchange of the high-level delegations of the armed forces of the two countries, and it reflects the desire of the two countries to cooperate with each other in defense fields. He made it clear that during the detailed discussions held between Pakistan and the United States, Washington better

understood Islamabad's stand on several issues, including the nuclear issue. He expressed the hope that the United States will now adopt an outlook that correctly reflects Pakistan's policy.

Referring to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization accord, the spokesman said that a meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization's foreign ministers will be held on 29 September in New York to discuss this issue. He said Jerusalem is a sentimental issue for the Muslims and, hence, it should be resolved in a manner which is acceptable to everyone.

General Hoar's Visit Seen as 'Exercise in Futility'

BK1509014793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 14 Sep 93 p 6

[Editorial: "An Unwelcome Guest"]

[Text] Too much familiarity as well as frequency of visits breeds not only contempt but sometimes nausea too. The Commander in Chief of the US Central Command General Hoar's present visit to Pakistan falls in that category. The news item giving details of the subjects he will discuss with Islamabad makes one feel that this visit is no more than an exercise in futility. The US-Pak relations, despite all the bland assurances emanating from senior diplomats in Washington and Islamabad, have now crystallized into well-defined patterns and the two countries, as far as general perception is concerned, are deeply entrenched in their different position on various issues. There is very little room for flexibility or manoeuvre on such issues as the sale of F-16, nuclear proliferation and Kashmir, as well as drug trafficking. Washington has already cut off all military and economic assistance to Pakistan and though Pakistan has not been yet placed on the list of terrorist countries, it is still treated as a suspect on probation, and there is no possibility of the resumption of military or economic aid. The question in every one's mind is—what are we indebted to for the honour of this visit? Let us be blunt about the whole affair. Washington's policy toward Pakistan is marked by blatant hypocrisy, because the gap between its deeds and words is very great. The US really believes that Pakistan is a fundamentalist state, a potential threat to US interests; it considers Pakistan a country which sponsors terrorism and connives at drug trafficking. But at the same time it wants to exploit Pakistan's strategic and geographical position to its own advantage. One wing of the State Department issues words of warnings, while the other sends out statements of cautious praise and occasional encouragement. The purpose is to confuse our public and leaders about the real intention of that superpower. The regular visits of US generals and diplomats are designed to put pressure on Pakistan to change its policies in deference to US domestic and global interests. Those who may consider this as media hype, should look at the Americans twisting the arms of caretakers in matter of drug traffic. No extradition treaty exists, yet our Premier has been subjected to intense lobbying by US officials. We are an independent country with competent courts to try our citizens who commit crimes, but the Americans still think of us as a race of primitive people living in trees having little knowledge of the due process of law.

Similarly we have reasons to believe that the US is pushing for a Washington-made solution of Kashmir problem and one of the objectives of Hoar's visit is to lobby for a settlement in which India and Pakistan accept the actual line of control and agree to maintain soft borders. These steps, according to Washington's game plan, would lead to a weak and nominally free state under Indian hegemony. Gen Hoar should know that no government can survive for 24 hours if it agrees to this proposal. The same applies to the business of getting Pakistan to sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. Americans are neither willing nor able to tell India to wind up its nuclear programme. Under these circumstances the attempt to persuade Pakistan to act unilaterally is a waste of time and effort.

Incidentally, what is the propriety of taking a senior general of a nation who considers us as their enemy to the strategically sensitive area of Siachen? The move, apart from being prejudicial to national security, may lead to other unpleasant results. What if the American catches chill? Would not it annoy Washington? Let him stay in the safety of inland plains.

Politician Says U.S. Not Interested in Kashmir Solution

BK1509115193 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 14 Sep 93 p 2

[By a special reporter]

[Text] Rawalpindi—Professor Dr. Tahirul Qadri, the chairman of the Pakistan Awami Tehrik, has claimed that the government of Pakistan has agreed to allow the inspection of nuclear installations and to roll back the country's nuclear program on the pretext of resolving the Kashmir problem. He expressed surprise at the Foreign Office statement that there is now a better understanding of the Kashmir problem in the United States as a result of efforts by Pakistan in this regard. In a written statement, Prof. Tahirul Qadri said the actual position is that the U.S. is not at all interested in the Kashmir issue. If it were so, the Kashmir dispute would have been resolved very long ago. He said what the U.S. actually desires is to see Pakistan not achieving self-reliance in the nuclear and economic fields; Washington has started to talk about Kashmir only to fulfill this desire. He added that even the U.S.-Pakistan talks on this issue are being held at the behest of the United States, and, after these talks, Washington will complete the ritual of holding discussions with India as well. Tahirul Qadri demanded that all proposals regarding the resolution of the Kashmir dispute be made public. He described the U.S. economic sanctions against Pakistan for the purchase of Chinese missiles as part of Washington's pressure tactics in the above context.

Noorani Alleges CIA Agents Present in Foreign Ministry

BK1509150993 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 14 Sep 93 p 10

[By JANG Correspondent]

[Text] Multan—Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan Chief Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani has said that the recognition of Israel by Yasir 'Arafat has dealt a severe blow to the Islamic world and that the agreement is a part of the new world order. Addressing a news conference here yesterday, he said that present in the Pakistan Foreign Ministry are CIA agents who want to resolve the Kashmir issue on the pattern of the resolution of the Palestinian issue. Sardar Qayyum Khan's visit to the United States is also a link in the same chain. He claimed that the United States does not want to see democracy flourishing in Pakistan. The martial law regimes of Ayub Khan and Ziaul Haq had the support of the United States. However, the present caretaker government imposed on the country is a punishment for the mistake of the persons who have been declaring that they would not take be dictated to.

Answering a question, Noorani said that Benazir Bhutto's proposal for a new social contract system is not new. The system is in force all over Europe. The system is useful and there will be no harm if it is implemented. In reply to another question, he said our alliance is with the Islamic Front and not with the Jamiat-i-Islami. We are against the leadership of women and that is why we have fielded a candidate against Benazir Bhutto in Sind.

Leader Promises To Make Country 'Nuclear' If Elected

BK1609103793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 16 Sep 93 p 5

[Text] Islamabad (APP)—Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed, chief of PIF [Pakistan Islamic Front] has said that his party if voted to power will make Pakistan nuclear to ensure security and to meet the growing energy needs.

In an interview with APP he said Pakistan has no aggressive design against any nation, neither have we any claim on other countries nor posing any threat.

PIF wants to develop nuclear capability as a deterrent ensuring peace and tranquility.

PIF wants to live in peace and [word indistinct] but we will not allow any country to threaten sovereignty and integrity of the country.

As far as Kashmir dispute is concerned, PIF is not going to start war on the issue. However, it will make all out efforts to see that the reign of terror let loose by occupation forces comes to end and it is resolved according to the UN resolutions, he said.

Pakistan is duty bound to extend all political and moral help to the valiant Kashmiris, who are faced with the worst type of repressions.

He castigated US for its double standards on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq, Bosnia and Kashmir.

The union approach and determination of 130 million Pakistanis could foil all the evil designs of the enemies of the motherland, he observed. "We cannot abandon our ideology and stance owing to the fears and reservations of any other country."

The Senator said he recently had a meeting with the members of the diplomatic community based in Islamabad and explained to them that in Islam all the agreements were obligatory upon a true Muslim. Regarding foreign investment and trade relations with the rest of the world he said in case of investment, the bases of profit would not be fixed and pre-determined. [Word indistinct] would based on equity, he added.

He said, PIF has to its credit extensive spade work on the interest free economy. He said, professor Senator (Kharshad) Ahmed had held talks with a number of investment firms, who are willing and ready and some of them already doing business on the basis of equity.

However, he said, the Front was fully utilising all the avenues and opportunities and successfully taking its message to the masses.

Bhutto Family Dissension Divides PPP on Election Eve

BK1709022493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0117 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 17 (AFP)—Pakistan's leading political family, with a painful history of suffering at the hands of foes, is now troubled from inside by a rift between the heirs of executed premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

With elections only 19 days away, a row between former premier Benazir Bhutto and her self-exiled younger brother Mir Murtaza Bhutto is worrying the rank and file of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

"It is hurting the party's image on the eve of the polls," said a PPP candidate for National Assembly, who did not want to be named.

Murtaza, 38, entered the electoral race from his Damascus refuge in multiple constituencies in Sindh, a PPP stronghold and home province of the family, apparently without the blessings of his sister.

Rowdyism by Murtaza's supporters marred an important public rally Bhutto addressed in Sindh's capital city of Karachi a week ago, drawing a strong denunciation from the 40-year old PPP leader.

Murtaza has attacked the policies of PPP and what he calls the presence of intelligence agents and turncoats in the party, in a series of long-distance telephone interviews to Pakistani newspapers.

But unlike his sister, PPP co-chairperson Benazir Bhutto, her mother Nusrat Bhutto who is chairperson of the PPP, has backed her son's decision to contest the polls.

Nusrat, admitting brother-sister differences, told reporters at the family ancestoral home in Larkana Wednesday that though it was "too late," she was still trying to bring about a "patchup."

Expressing her wish to see her son gaining Sindh's chief ministership, Nusrat blamed PPP provincial chief Qaim Ali Shah, a former chief minister, for creating the differences by influencing Bhutto's mind against Murtaza.

Her support for Murtaza's political ambitions has evoked criticism from those perturbed by the brother-sister friction. They hold the mother mainly responsible for the unsavory situation the party finds itself in.

Murtaza left the country after his father was overthrown in 1977 by general Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq who sent Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to the gallows two years later for an alleged political murder conspiracy.

Until his death in a 1988 plane crash, Zia-ul relentlessly hounded the Bhutto family and the PPP during his decade-long military rule, jailing Benazir from time to time before letting her leave Pakistan in the early 80s.

Benazir Bhutto returned in 1986 after Zia-ul lifted martial law and inducted a civilian government under premier Mohammad Khan Junejo under the pressure of international opinion.

While a band of supporters grouped in a so-called 'Shaheed (martyr) Bhutto Committee' are now handling the election campign for Murtaza, a question mark hangs over his return home.

Caretaker premier Moin Qureshi earlier this month ruled out amnesty sought for him by Nusrat, saying he saw no reason to grant a pardon because of "a number of cases pending (against him) and awaiting trial."

As leader of the Al-Zulfikar Organization he founded during his exile to resist the Zia-ul regime, Murtaza was implicated in a 1981 hijacking of a Pakistani airliner and several other acts of alleged terrorism.

He was sentenced in absentia to 14 years in prison, but during the 1988-1990 government of his sister the sentences handed down by military courts were quashed. However, cases against Murtaza on other counts remain.

Many PPP activists fear Murtaza's leap into the electoral fray could lead to an internal tussle for leadership, if he wins in the elections and returns.